

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

\$3.00



Parra Power In!

17 Teams in Ericsson Cup Next Year!

Matildas' Out!

World Cup Dream Shattered!

Dave's World

The World According to David Mitchell!

BRAD MALONEY

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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REMINDER

HAVE YOU TOLD CHANNEL 7 THAT YOU WANT
BETTER SOCCER COVERAGE?

*E-mail by going to www.seven.com.au/sportsworld and

clicking on E-mail for their automated feedback sheet

*FAX 02 90777888

*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular

football code in their recent Net site poll.

Thank You

On behalf of 'Australian and British Soccer Weekly' we would like to thank Richard Kreider for all the photographs that have been printed in our paper over the past two weeks of the FIFA World Stars game.

All photographs that have been used, including all the front covers and middle spreads were all taken by Mr Kreider. From all at ABSW we are grateful for your input towards the paper and once again, Thankyou.

SYDNEY SOCCER WORLD CUP 1999

Countries wishing to participate in this unique sporting event.

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World Cup commences on the 2nd of October.
 Information on how to enter, prizes and conditions.

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The Secretary

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NOBODY KNOWS SOCCER AT SEVEN

The Mug Punter

Congratulations Channel 7! It is great to finally get soccer coverage on commercial TV, but are you really serious?

Unbelievable is the only word for the fiasco which was supposed to be a live coverage of the Socceroos v FIFA All Stars match.

I don't know how the telecast went in other states, but in South Australia Channel 7 served up the ultimate insult to our world game.

I was on the edge of my seat as the All Stars prepared to take a corner, when 'ZAP', we were hit with an ad for the program following — the AFL telecast of Port Power v Richmond.

Back to the soccer to hear a commentator shouting 'What a great goal!'

WHAT GOAL?

In their infinite commercial wisdom, Channel 7 chose one of the most crucial times of any soccer match — a corner, which we soccer followers know is always a great goal scoring opportunity — to shove in an ad for the other footy.

Was this going to be the only goal of the game? And I had missed it because of an ad break? RIDICULOUS! Fortunately there were others, but what if...?

I suggest, if Channel 7 is the least bit serious about broadcasting soccer, that it consults a few of the people who know the game and how a broadcast should be done, such as SBS (except in the commentary department).

Is it really too much to ask that all ads be programmed before the kick off and during the half time break — plenty of time there — rather than slotting them in without any thought as to what happens in a soccer match, totally destroying the whole broadcast?

It was painfully obvious that no one had done any research on broadcasting soccer. It is a totally different kettle of fish from Aussie Rules or basketball, where there are goals aplenty and everything is orchestrated to fit in with the broadcast.

There may be only one goal in the entire 90 minutes of a soccer match, and

to miss it is unforgivable.

It simply is not possible to have ad breaks during playing time in a soccer match.

If Channel 7 is going to broadcast the Manchester United matches, they need to do a lot of work between now and then, otherwise people will be turning off in droves.

With a bit of luck the sponsors Sharp will put pressure on to ensure things go well. These games should send 7's ratings through the roof, but if the broadcast is of the same poor quality as the Socceroos v FIFA game, believe me, people will turn off.

The cynics would say that perhaps that is the idea — make people turn off so that the ratings will show soccer is not viable on commercial television.

However, commercial television will be the big loser, not soccer, if this happens. There is an enormous interest out there, but the game must be televised properly.

Can you imagine what would have happened if there was a cut to an ad for the soccer and the Aussie Rules fans missed Tony Lockett's record breaking goal?

Also, Channel 7 must ensure it employs commentators who actually know what they are talking about. We were constantly given the wrong score, there was more peripheral comment than commentary, and there seemed to be quite a few technical problems.

Full marks for getting Paul Wade, easily recognisable, a former — Australian captain, a well known personality in the media but his commentating skills need a bit of work.

Then there is Paul Williams. I must admit when Paul was commentating on SBS, I used to turn the sound off. Both

Pic by Richard Kreider.



Some of the action from the FIFA World Stars clash was missed by the Seven Networks poor coverage.

commentators could use a few terms at from the Martin Tyler commentary school.

Finally, is it necessary to keep that annoying Channel 7 logo on the bottom right hand corner of the screen? Very aggravating and confusing, considering it is white and so is the soccer ball!

Don't get me wrong. I am not a knocker, but I feel cheated. I had been looking forward all day to the game, and to miss the first goal just under 10 minutes in was so frustrating it made my blood boil.

If soccer is ever going to attract the audience it deserves in Australia, and Channel 7 has opted to be 'the soccer station', that audience in turn deserves quality broadcasts.

So please, Channel 7, make sure you have technical advisors who know the game, commentators who can give an accurate idea of what is happening as well as background information on the players, coaches, moves etc, and programmers and sponsors who understand how important it is not to interrupt the game with advertisements or other breaks.

Australian News

NSL TO BE COMPRISED OF 17 NEXT SEASON.

Soccer Australia has decided that the 1999/2000 Ericsson Cup league season will comprise of 17 clubs with the inclusion of Sydney based club Parramatta Power and the Auckland Kings from New Zealand, subject to a FIFA decision to be made in the next few days.

The inclusion of these two teams was met with the news that no current NSL team would be kicked out of the league and all will be given one more year to prove themselves as a viable entrant into the league.

It is likely that any changes to the composition of the league will be made next year after clubs are told of the criteria needed to qualify for a revamped competition.

The decision to give clubs who are financially in trouble, such as Gippsland and Sydney United a second chance is not a great surprise as SA are looking to keep a good relationship with clubs who have been in the league for many years, thus avoiding any conflicts or legal battles between themselves and the clubs.

The Board are relying on teams to die out rather than having to kill them off.

The SA board which met last Sunday to announce the composition of next years league also decided that the proposed Adelaide consortium, Adelaide United did not meet the criteria of qualification for this coming seasons NSL competition.

Reports last week were that Adelaide United had struck a partnership deal with English giants, Manchester United, subject to inclusion into the league.

The denial of Adelaide United into the league gives the Adelaide Sharks one last chance in the league after they were tipped to struggle to make it to the start line for next seasons competition.

The two new clubs that were permitted into the league must now look around for players and officials for the start of the season which is only a matter of months away.

Parramatta Power already seem to be one of the most strongest teams in next years league off the field even though the team has yet to announce a squad, let alone play a game.

The club has announced that former Soccerroo and former Sydney United coach, David Mitchell as the coach of the new team.

The Power will have the financial backing of the Parramatta Rugby League Club and all home games will be played at Parramatta Stadium.

The club is expected to inject some \$3.5 million into the team in their first five years.

The Parramatta Leagues Club expects that supporters will travel to the nearby club after games, as is the norm

after Rugby League games.

The club is looking forward to the start of the season and so is coach David Mitchell.

Mitchell has stated in the Sydney media that although the club does not have any players, he has been swamped by players who want to play for the new team.

The Parramatta Club has entered a team into the NSL for financial reasons especially because of the non use of Parramatta Stadium during the summer months, and they see this as a chance to pick up some more revenue for the club.

Parramatta Stadium, the home base for the Power, will be the best ground in the Ericsson Cup next season (apart from Hindmarsh, once it has been completed) and players can expect to find a smooth playing surface once the Rugby League season has finished.

Sydney United played a number of games from Parramatta Stadium last season and crowd support was not as big as expected.

But with its own identity and a team based in Parramatta, the club hopes that the team will attract many supporters from the Rugby League side, the Parramatta Eels to the ground in the summer, expecting attendances of 10,000 plus to watch the Power.

The team will play in a blue and gold strip, the colours of the Rugby League team.

On the other side, Auckland Kings were always going to be accepted into the league by SA but the big decision is will FIFA allow them into the competition.

FIFA does not allow teams from other nations to play in another countries league. The decision on the future of Auckland is to be made on July 5.

The inclusion of the Auckland Kings is a positive step for Australian soccer as the national competition will get some overseas exposure and hopefully, some overseas sponsorship dollars.

One of the negative points to come out of the inclusion of the Auckland Kings is that a team playing week in and week out in the NSL will only help the New Zealand national team, a team that Australia must beat in our Oceania qualifiers on the road to the World Cup.

So what of the clubs who were and still are in financial difficulty.

Sydney United and Gippsland along with Adelaide Sharks were the hot tips to miss out on next seasons league but they have been given a second chance.

For these clubs to be included into the NSL competition for 2000/2001, they will need to improve themselves both at a financial level and at a supporters level.

Adelaide Sharks are a club who are in the most trouble at the moment. The team is playing out of a stadium which is still being re-constructed for the Olympics.

This may well be the problem for the lack of crowd support for the Sharks last season, as well as Adelaide City, and the club must find a way to make it financially viable as well as getting the crowd back.

Adelaide United, who were unsuccessful in their bid for the competition promised that they would be the next Perth Glory and Northern Spirit, which is exactly what is needed in South Australia.

The soccer attendances are poor for both South Australian clubs but internal disputing at the Sharks has been the clubs downfall as well as a lack of consistency on the park.

Soccer Australia's decision to not allow Adelaide United into the league may not be from what they offered, but the fact that three clubs in Adelaide was too much, seeing that all clubs who were in last season's competition, are to get a run in next season's competition.

All is not lost for Adelaide United who were told by Soccer Australian Chairman, Basil Scarsella that they can re-apply for entry for the 2000/01 competition.

Gippsland is another team who are living on the edge but the decision on Sunday comes as a relief for the club who need to lift the profile of their club to stand any chance of survival.

Gippsland hasn't set the league on fire since their inception and the clubs geographic placing means that it can't attract as many supporters as it would if it were based closer to Melbourne.

Crowd numbers must also increase if the team wants to stay in the league.

The capacity of Mobil Park is limited by the lack of seating and compared to Parramatta Stadium, the ground needs to be attended to, although it isn't the only one.

Sydney United are another team who are in dire

straits and the next year at the club will be crucial in their survival hopes.

This years Minor Premiers and runners up struggled for player payments and it wasn't until in the latter half of the season that many of the players were paid.

United must spread its wings and reach out for the Sydney public who now have an abundance of clubs to support in Sydney.

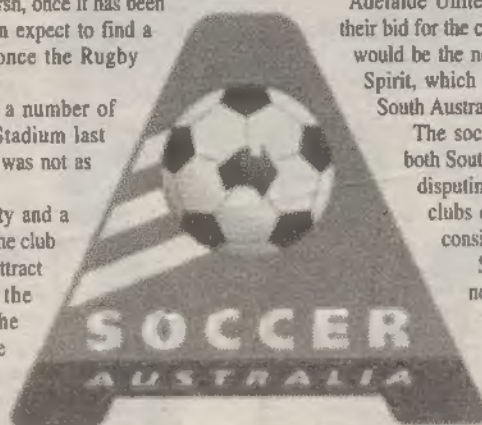
But can a league sustain five clubs in Sydney and in particular, can those five clubs attract more supporters, this considering three of them still have some strong ethnic ties.

It was plain to see by all from Northern Spirit that there is a market for soccer in Australia, even though soccer is not a mainstream sport and if marketed well, then a club can easily survive and attract good crowds as well as attracting the all important sponsorship dollar.

All up, Soccer Australia has made their decision and for season 1999/2000, it is final.

The NSL will have 17 clubs who will be all trying to meet the criteria set down by SA and although the future seems bleak for some, they still have a chance to redeem themselves and show SA that they can help to make the Australian league stronger.

The next 12 months will be crucial for all 17 clubs, pending Auckland's exception, and that means starting from today.



**TURN TO PAGE SEVEN FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
NEW PARRAMATTA POWER
COACH,
DAVID MITCHELL**



**UTS
SYDNEY
OLYMPIC**

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS PROGRAM

UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER CAMP

WHEN: July 5-8 (Mon-Thurs)
WHERE: Tempe Reserve — Holbeach Street, Tempe
TIME: 9am-12noon
COST: \$100 (incl. Ball, t-shirt, cap, posters and drinks)
AGES: 7-16 years
COACHES: Headed by former Soccerroo coach Mr Frank Arok and assisted by UTS Sydney Olympic first grade squad.



Players attending are advised to wear soccer training gear as well as shinpads. A tracksuit is recommended in case of cold weather.
If you are interested in attending this camp, you must fill out the form below and sent it, along with a cheque or money order made payable to Sydney Olympic SFC — 64 Tennent Parade, Hurlstone Park NSW 2193 by 1st July. Credit card facilities are available at the office — ring Sue on 9558 5355 for more information or you can fax your application on 9558 8647. There are limited numbers.

Name:
Address:
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Phone (h): Date of Birth:
Soccer Club you play for:

Ericsson Cup 1999/2000

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ADELAIDE SHARKS
AUCKLAND KINGS
BRISBANE STRIKERS
CANBERRA COSMOS
CARLTON
GIPPSLAND FALCONS
MARCONI FAIRFIELD
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
NORTHERN SPIRIT
PARRAMATTA POWER
PERTH GLORY
SOUTH MELBOURNE
SYDNEY OLYMPIC
SYDNEY UNITED
WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Australian Features



POSITION VACANT: SOCCEROO COACH WANTED

Ever since his elevation to the position of chairman of Soccer Australia last year, Basil Scarsella has consistently said that a new coach of the national team would be appointed in the second half of 1999.

By Scarsella's precise reckoning, that leaves six months for the Soccer Australia Board to secure the funds and make up their mind about the best man to lead Australia to football's Holy Grail in 2002 – the Japan/Korea World Cup.

But can we afford to wait another six months before a coach is selected, a programme mapped out and preparations are on track for our qualification path?

There are many fans, players and officials alike who

four of them have had Socceroo experience with Farina topping the list amongst the four with 37 full internationals (68 games in total for Australia).

Mitchell played 27 full internationals, Krncevic 19 full internationals and Postecoglou in a handful of locally-based Socceroo teams. All four know what it's like to play for their country.

Appointing a younger generation of coach who is a product of Australia would also be a powerful message for Australian soccer as we near the end of the 20th century, and would be a further step along the way in the development of the game.

Postecoglou, 34, Krncevic, 40, and Farina, 35, were born in Melbourne, Geelong and Darwin respectively, while Mitchell, 37, arrived from Glasgow when he was eight years old.

As coaches, they have all had success, with two of them also experiencing the dark side of coaching – which some might see as a necessary prerequisite.

After taking a Brisbane Strikers squad made up of 30 somethings and under 20s (or "underpaid over-achievers" as some in the Queensland press referred



Ange Postecoglou

to them) to a championship victory in 1996-97, the Strikers crashed to 12th the following season under Farina with the departure/retirement of four older campaigners and long-term injuries to other key players.

There was a lot of pressure on Farina when he made the move to Marconi in his third season as a coach. After early season success, the Stallions slumped to 9th mid-season with a horrific injury toll and just about everyone wrote them off – only to see Farina and his players fight back and finish the season fourth.

Likewise, Krncevic took Carlton to the Ericsson Cup Grand Final on debut season as coach in 1997-98. Carlton started off the 1998-99 season in magnificent scoring form with eight goals in two games, but then ended up middle of the table with a run of disappointing results.

Krncevic has been dumped by the Carlton management, but it is only a matter of time and opportunity before someone picks him up.

Mitchell and Postecoglou really only know success.

Postecoglou has just finished his third season as coach of South Melbourne where he has seen the club finish third in 1996-97 followed by two championship wins from the past two seasons.

Mitchell had ten games coaching Sydney Olympic in 1996-97 when Dave Ratcliffe was unceremoniously dumped and has spent the past two seasons with the financially embattled Sydney United, both years bleeding talented young players – such as Jacob Burns, Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths, this balanced with experience in key positions, such as David Barrett and Velimir Kupresak.

Sydney United finished fourth in 1997-98, and were minor premiers, losing to South Melbourne in the Grand Final in the season just finished.

It is a credit to Mitchell and his players that they made the grand final, this despite the financial difficulties of the club and reported late payments of coach and players – a condition reportedly also experienced by Farina (at Brisbane), but with less publicity.

Mitchell is now moving on to coach Parramatta Power, who have accepted into the national league for 1999-2000.

Of course, in today's world where coaches are no longer anonymous, the coach of a team must also be able to perform off-the-field as well.

A coach is as much a representative of the sport as the players are, and has an important role to fulfil with sponsors, fans, the 'non-soccer' public and the media.

So while a locally-based coach may not have the novelty value or charisma of Terry Venables or another overseas coach, he nonetheless has to be personable, quick-thinking, articulate and well-presented.

All-up, we need someone who can bring Australia into the 2002 World Cup.

The new man must have a demonstrable capacity for coaching as well as being able to deal with pressure situations and the vicissitudes of coaching.

Our Socceroo coach must have a significant high-level of playing experience, preferably as an international.

Our new coach must have the respect of the players



Frank Farina

as well as having international contacts.

The new coach must have the ability to put in place a suitable programme to get us ready for the World Cup qualifiers.

Media savvy and charm is a must for this position as well as having first-class communications skills.

And most importantly, Australia needs a man who can take us to the World Cup finals!

Quite a demanding job description – but to varying degrees, Krncevic, Mitchell, Postecoglou and Farina meet these criteria.

In the absence of megabucks to attract a high-profile coach of international reputation and standing, now is the time, Soccer Australia, to give one of our home-grown coaches a go!

What have we got to lose?



David Mitchell

are keen to get on with the job sooner rather than later.

With former favourite, Roy Hodgson, seemingly out of the picture due to salary expectations and other demands, perhaps we have to bite the bullet and appoint one of our young coaches now.

While someone with the international reputation and standing of a Venables or a Hodgson or others of their like might be attractive propositions, if we can't get them under the terms we want and prices we can afford, then why not try Eddie Krncevic, David Mitchell, Ange Postecoglou or Frank Farina?

With the squad we have available to us, the conditions are currently the best they could be for a young coach to be thrown in at the deep end – and it's not as if these four are wet behind the ears.

Krncevic, Mitchell and Farina were amongst those who showed the way for many of our players now showing off their skills overseas.

The current crop of players – even the 'big names' such as Bosnich, Kewell, Zelic and Okon – know and respect this. All have good international contacts, and had good careers.

In fact, at the time Farina was transferred from Club Brugge to Bari in 1991-92 for a then record transfer fee for an Australian player, he was regarded as one of the top ten strikers in Europe.

While Postecoglou didn't play overseas, the



Eddie Krncevic

WHO WILL BE UNITED'S NEW COACH?

By John Economos

Sydney United having now lost David Mitchell as their senior coach over the past two seasons to the National Soccer League's fledgling club side, the Parramatta Power, are now in earnest searching for a replacement.

Speculation has it already that former United midfielder player and Youth coach Ivan Petkovic, in tandem with veteran defender Velimir Kupresak, are ready to takeover the senior coaching role.

Meanwhile some other big names have been banded around as likely candidates to fill Mitchell's now vacated position.

Former Head coach at

the AIS Ronnie Smith has been mentioned, but although this would have been a most wise choice, Smith has recently been appointed as Technical Director of all the Malaysian National teams and has just set up his base in Kuala Lumpur.

Current AIS head coach and former Sydney City's international defender Steve O'Connor, has also been mentioned, as has the NSW Super League's Bonnyrigg White Eagles' coach, John Turner.

Turner last season took out the 'Coach Of The Year' award in NSW.

Sydney United is almost certain to make an official announcement sometime this week as to their final choice.



Velimir Kupresak... Sydney United's sterling defender.

Australian Features

MARCONI AWARDS NIGHT

Have Your Say ...

By John Economos

Tony Brescia, Managing Director of well known brand name, Brescia Furniture, has established a record the envy of any sports club, as being Marconi's longest serving major sponsor.

Brescia Furniture has now been Marconi's major sponsor with a six figure annual cash payment over the past 14 years.

At Marconi's recent Presentation Awards Night, the Club's president, Tony Labbozzetta, and Soccer Chairman



Colts Player Of The Year Saso Trajceviski with Frank Baroni.

high scoring midfielder won the Club's Players' Player Of The Year award presented to him by Soccer Chairman Frank Baroni and senior coach Frank Farina.

Marconi's 'Youth Player Of The Year Award,' was taken out by 18 year old attacking right flanker Michael Beauchamp, whilst Saso Trajceviski, Marconi's talented 16 year old sensational dynamic sweeper scored the 'Colts Player Of The Year' trophy.

Marconi looks to have a secure future ahead of them with the support of Mr Brescia and upcoming young stars such as Michael Beauchamp and Saso Trajceviski.



Brad Maloney, 'Players' Player Award' presented by Soccer Chairman Frank Baroni

Frank Baroni, presented Mr Brescia with special gifts in appreciation of the time and support that they have given toward Marconi.

"Not only has Mr Brescia been Marconi's longest serving major sponsor, certainly what must be a record in any sport, but he has also been a very dear and valuable friend to us all," saluted Mr Labbozzetta.

Brad Maloney the Club's senior captain and



Major sponsor, Tony Brescia(r), receiving his gift from Mr Baroni(l) and President Tony Labbozzetta.

Dear Sir,

Who do I think should be Soccer Captain from now until at least the 2002 World Cup? Ned Zelic. Why? His experience in Europe is one key factor in his favour.

His goal against the FIFA World Stars was another reason why he should be implemented into the captaincy now — he backs his attacking instincts.

In a sport when a single moment of brilliance can gain you glory, Ned Zelic's input surely cannot be denied.

I congratulate the venerable Alex Tobin for his enduring contributions, who will be recorded in the Australian soccer annals as one of our longest serving national captains. Yet he must now know his time has come to step down.

There is enough experience and savvy in the squad to ensure that his spot in defence is not needed and it must be filled by one of our European-based representatives.

Ned Zelic is now ready to step up and lead us into Korea and Japan in three years' time.

Mark Fisher
Kealba Victoria



MARCONI STALLIONS SOCCER CAMP

AT **MARCONI STADIUM**, BOSSLEY PARK

Tuesday 13th July to Thursday 15th July, 1999

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TIME:
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COST:

9am through to 12 Noon
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Your Boots, Shinpads, Socks and Shorts
\$100.00 per Child — DISCOUNT OF 10% FOR 5 OR MORE

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Brendan Renaud

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- ⚽ Captain Brad Maloney
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- ⚽ Kris Trajanovski
- ⚽ Zeljko Babic
- ⚽ PLUS a host of other Marconi stars
- ⚽ Christian Care
- ⚽ Chad Gibson



Frank Farina head coach

Please complete and send with payment to:
MARCONI "Camp Stallions"
COACHING CLINIC Club Marconi,
Marconi Plaza,
Bossley Park, NSW 2176. Closing Date is
Friday 9th July, 1999.

APPLICATION FORM

CHILDS NAME/S AGE
ADDRESS P'CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Home) (Work)
T-SHIRT SIZE SKILL LEVEL POSITION
MEDICAL CONDITIONS (If Any)
I authorise the coaches and staff of Club Marconi to act for me, according to their best judgement, in any emergency requiring medical attention. I further release Club Marconi and staff from any and all liability for injury or illness incurred at the coaching clinic.
PARENT/GUARDIAN (Signature) Date:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES: Telephone 9823 2222 or ... E-Mail: football@marconifc.com
FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS

Australian Features

CARLTON TO TOUR CHINA



Carlton Soccer Club are showing their future intentions of moving into the Asian market by announcing that they will be taking a squad of players to the People's Republic of China in August.

Soccer is one of the most popular sports in China and Carlton see the potential that the NSL and the Club in particular can grow into becoming a powerhouse in Australasian soccer.

Carlton see the growth of the game in Asia as having a link with the growth of the game in Australia.

The club aims that in the near future, they will be Australia's premier club and gain a profile which will be on a similar scale to that of some of the biggest clubs in the world.

Of course one thing against this is the lack of soccer support in Australia because of the number of other sports, but by tapping into a growing market, the club hopes to gain support and gain a reputation of a club which is going places.

Carlton had a terrible season after showing so much promise in their first year in the competition in 1997/98 when they played in the Grand Final.

The rollercoaster ride at Carlton this season began with a drop in crowd numbers which forced the club to move to Olympic Park.

Carlton also lost coach, Eddie Krncevic after his teams run of bad form.

Despite all the problems, the team has bounced back with the signing of Stuart Munro as coach for next season.

Munro said that he was very excited at the prospect of taking his squad overseas so early in his time as coach of the team.



Carlton coach Stuart Munro and his charges are off to China.

He feels that this is typical of the big ideas and big thinking that the coach has found at Carlton so far.

Carlton has also improved its personnel on the field with the signing of two new players, Graig Deans from Perth Glory and David Terminello from Adelaide City.

Coach Munro sees the Chinese tour as a great opportunity for the squad to spend quality time together in an interesting environment.

The squad to go to China will be made up of over 20 players and the coach expects that the trip will give his team some valuable time to get to know each other and "gel" together so that they can hit the ground running when the new

NSL season kicks off.

The tour will be taken very seriously by the club as it attempts to improve on last seasons poor finish in the league.

Munro has also announced that he confidently expects to be announcing the signing of two new big name players from overseas "within the next couple of weeks", which will "really make people sit up and take notice of what we're trying to achieve here (at Carlton).

"This is a highly professional club, and we need to treat our playing staff like the full-time pros they are. That includes time together for them to weld themselves into a highly-motivated team-focused unit," said Munro.

General Manager of the Club, Lou Sticca, remarked that the tour of China can only be a positive for the Club as apart from getting good exposure, they will play competitive teams, as well as scouting around for some young players in the chance of finding the next star to come out of Asia.

Sticca is also looking ahead to the potential goldmine that the club can hopefully strike for merchandise sales.

All this however depends on the strength that the club markets itself both in Australia and in Asia as well as getting positive results on the field which is always important.

"Suddenly we're not talking about selling replica shirts to ten thousand people attending Olympic Park, we're talking about a full-blown marketing operation in memorabilia to about a third of the world's population," said Sticca.

The tour is a step in the right direction for soccer in Australia. Earlier this year, a NSW Rugby Union game was played in Asia and it seems that it was a real success so in that case, Carlton can only look forward to the tour.

Carlton will play four games on the tour of China including Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province, Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province and Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province.

The cities are the hubs of some of the most successful and populous Chinese Provinces. The urban population in the major cities alone amounts to an astonishing 87 million people.

Sticca hopes that the games in China will get some kind of media exposure hopefully on television and especially in news services.

Sticca's vision of the tour is that of Carlton flying the flag for Australian soccer in the key Asian market.

Sticca also announced that the Club would look favourably on any corporate involvement that was suggested to him by local businesses.

It seems that soccer in general is on the up since the arrival of Northern Spirit into the National Soccer League.

Record crowds and sponsorship has showed fellow clubs that there is a market in Australia for soccer and if a team promotes itself well, then the sky is the limit.

The initiative shown by Carlton is one with promise and if a club or the league itself can tap into the Asian Market, the continent which is holding the next world Cup, well then we may find ourselves with a stronger league which will only help strengthen our national sides.

The opportunity is also there to attract the best players from overseas should clubs and the national league lift its standard from being just a national league to a great league with the best players in the world, but that is still so time away, we think.

THE KING OF AFL PLAYS SOME REAL FOOTBALL.

Can anybody out there pick who the man in the white shirt is. He is a famous Australian sportsman and a legend of Aussie Rules as well as being treated like a king in his state of Victoria.

That's right, He is Gary Ablett, one of the best ever players in Aussie Rules history, is now apply his given talents on the football field playing soccer.

debut in his first home senior game for Bell Park in the Victorian State League Division Three.

His cross led to the first goal in Bell Park's two-one win over Keilor Park on Saturday.

Ablett announced his retirement from the AFL last year after over a decade in the sport but now there loss is our gain.

It looks as though Ablett has finally realised that football is



Gary Ablett(I) playing for his new team, Bell Park, leaves Simon Skazlic of Keilor Park in his wake.

Ablett has made a name for himself as one of the top goalscorers in Australian Football League(AFL) history but now 'God,' as he was called whilst playing for the Gellong Cats in the AFL, is now dazzling the crowds by scoring goals by putting the ball through the posts and into the net on the soccer field.

Ablett, seen in the pic below in the white top, was making his

the best code of sport in the nation and in the world.

From of of us at ABSW we'd like to wish Gary goodluck in his future as a footballer and hopefully he will kick as many goals on the soccer pitch for Bell Park he did on the Aussie Rules grounds for Gellong.

WOLVES STAY PUT AT BRANDON PARK

The Wollongong Wolves have confirmed that they will play their home games for next seasons Ericsson Cup season at their current home ground, Brandon Park.

The club has decided to stay at Brandon Park despite the involvement of the State Government in re-developing nearby Win Stadium and improving facilities and conditions for all sporting codes at the ground.

Win Stadium is currently used by National Rugby League side, The St. George/Illawarra Dragons during the winter months although during the soccer season, the ground is not used by anyone.

Wollongong are looking to reach the heights that they achieved in the 1997/98 league season when the team came

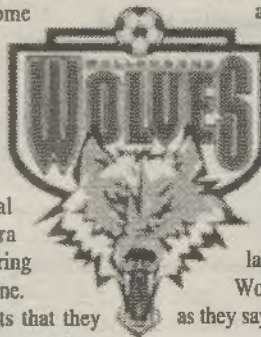
from nowhere to qualify for the finals.

Maybe a move to Win stadium in the near future will be a fresh start to a team who last year failed to rise up to the high expectations that were placed upon the club.

Captain Matt Horsely was one of the Club's best throughout the season although many say that the Wollongong Wolves could be a dark horse for the new season to come.

Wollongong season was interrupted by player separations which disturbed a team which lacked consistency.

Wollongong have played at Win Stadium before but as they say, 'there's no place like home.'



Australian Features

MITCHELL — THE POWER AND THE GLORY

By John Economos

David Mitchell, recently crowned 'Coach Of The Year' for the miracles he performed over the last two seasons whilst at Sydney United, was ecstatic when informed that his new Club, the Parramatta Power had been accepted into next season's National Soccer League.

All current 15 teams from last season's competition have retained their status, whilst two new clubs, Auckland Kings and Mitchell's Parramatta Power, have been admitted into the 1999/00 National Soccer League season.

Australia's former World Cup tenacious striker, was always confident that his new club would be granted entry into next season's National League.

"It's a most sensible decision I feel made by Soccer Australia and I believe that our new club can emulate what the Northern Spirit did crowd-wise last season," Mitchell stated to ABSW only minutes after the decision to include the new side from Sydney's Western Suburbs into the NSL competition for next season.

Mitchell who this week is expected to sign a three year contract with the Parramatta Power, went on to add, "We will have a team that will be able to attract good crowds in a modern stadium (Parramatta Stadium)."

"Even the name 'Parramatta Power' has a good strong marketing vibe about it."



Parramatta Power has the full backing of the Parramatta Leagues Club which will inject millions of dollars into the club to make it as competitive and professional as possible.

Mitchell is now faced with building a totally brand new squad of 20 players with a budget at his disposal not too dissimilar to that of neighbouring giants Marconi.

Parramatta Leagues Club's proposed to Soccer Australia was that they will inject a minimum of \$3.5million for Power in their first five years.

This situation is in complete contrast to the next to nothing budget Mitchell had to endure at now Parramatta rivals, Sydney United.

Over the past three days, the very popular, yet phlegmatic Mitchell, has been inundated

with calls from players, all offering their service and most eager to sign and play under him.

Mitchell who parted company on good terms with his old club Sydney United, is undaunted when it's time to build new teams. He's done it twice already.

In his first season (1997-98) at Sydney United, the 35 year old rookie coach took over the coaching reins after no less than nine first graders had streamed out of United, most seeking fulltime playing careers in Europe.

With extremely limited resources, Mitchell silently went about rebuilding a new squad that finished a respectable third in the League, and in fact with a little luck they could even have won it.

Last season Mitchell yet again experienced another mass exodus of players leaving the club, this time losing no less than seven first graders in the process.

Again the challenging Mitchell sat down with his trusted assistant and close friend Lawrie McKinna, who has also moved to Power, to rebuild another and even more successful squad.

The only difference this time was that Mitchell not only had rebuilt yet another very competitive squad, but actually was able to steam ahead up the league and finish first to take out the Minor League Championship, and just falling short of winning the championship after being defeated by 3-2 by South Melbourne in last months Grand Final.

Soccer Australia last Sunday afternoon officially announced that Parramatta Power, as well New Zealand side, The Auckland Kings (subject to FIFA approval), were the two new clubs whose applications were ratified to participate in next season's 17 team Ericsson National Soccer League.

A third application from for the NSL Status from

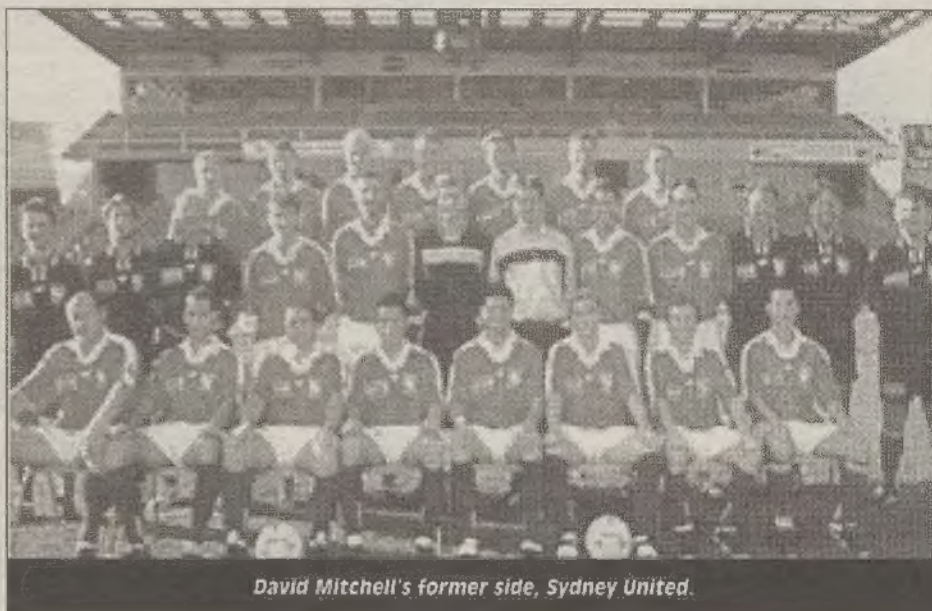
Adelaide United, was not successful.

The 17 teams in the new National Soccer League competing for next season's Ericsson Cup are all required to sign an agreement with Soccer Australia setting out the criteria essential for participation in the relaunched league for the following season in 2000/2001.

The strong word also going around at the moment is that Mitchell is in the running for the Socceroos coaching position following the falling out of Soccer Australia and Roy Hodgson.

Debate rages over who will be the next national-coach but it is certain that Mitchell is one of the many candidates that SA are currently looking at to lead Australia into the 2002 World Cup and beyond.

We all wish David Mitchell the best at his new club and hopefully the Power can become a force in next years league.



David Mitchell's former side, Sydney United.

SA TABLES & RESULTS

Cumberland have kept their three point lead at the top of the South Australian Premier League in tact following a 1-0 win over second from bottom, Modbury.

Second placed White City also managed a hard fought 1-0 away win at Elizabeth to keep in touch with the leaders.

Bottom placed Olympians were crushed 6-0 by Croydon and their season of misery continues.

Elsewhere, Campbelltown defeated Port Adelaide Lions by 2-1 and the Raiders stayed in third after a 4-0 win over West Torrens.

PREMIER

Cumberland Utd	1	Modbury	0
Campbelltown City	2	Pt Adelaide Lion	1
Elizabeth City	0	White City Warrior	1
Raiders	4	West Torrens Birka	0
Croydon	6	Olympians	0
Para Hills Knights	0	Adelaide Blue Eagle	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cumberland Utd	15	10	2	3	27	20	7	32
White City Warr	15	9	2	4	30	24	6	29
Raiders	15	9	1	5	28	19	9	28
Croydon	15	7	3	5	38	23	15	24
Campbelltown C	15	7	3	5	35	27	8	24
Elizabeth City	15	7	3	5	28	24	4	24
Port Adelaide L	15	6	4	5	29	26	3	22
Adel Blue Eagles	15	6	3	6	24	21	3	21
West Torrens B	15	6	2	7	25	32	-7	20

Para Hills Knight	15	4	3	8	21	32	-11	15
Modbury	15	4	1	10	28	38	-10	13
Olympians	15	0	3	12	18	45	-27	3

STATE

Adelaide Hills	0	West Adelaide	1
Enfield City	5	Metro Stars	0
Salisbury United	1	Adelaide City	2
Port Pirie City	3	Western Strikers	2
Adelaide Cobras	2	Panthers	2
Noarlunga Utd	1	Northern Demons	1

Seaford - bye

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Adelaide City	17	16	1	0	58	13	45	49
Enfield	18	9	5	4	48	24	24	32
Salisbury Utd	18	10	2	6	44	32	12	32
Metro Stars	18	9	4	5	42	27	15	31
Noarlunga Utd	18	9	3	6	31	29	2	30
Port Pirie City	17	8	4	5	30	30	0	28
West Adelaide	18	7	4	7	36	27	9	25
Adelaide Cobras	18	7	4	7	27	28	-1	25
Western Strikers	18	6	2	10	30	38	-8	20
Northern Demons	17	5	3	9	33	36	-3	18
Seaford	17	4	3	10	16	39	-23	15
Adelaide Hills	17	3	0	14	22	49	-27	9
Panthers	17	2	3	12	16	61	-45	9

STATE U/23

Port Pirie City	3	Western Strikers	0
Adelaide Hills	5	West Adelaide	0
Enfield City	3	Metro Stars	1
Salisbury United	1	Adelaide City	1

Adelaide Cobras	2	Panthers	3
Noarlunga United	4	Northern Demons	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Salisbury United	18	15	3	0	56	15	41	48
Metro Stars	18	12	0	6	38	21	17	36
Enfield City	18	10	2	6	39	25	14	32
Noarlunga Utd	18	9	2	7	22	24	-2	29
Adelaide City	17	7	4	6	34	28	6	25
Seaford	17	8	1	8	22	32	-10	25
Adelaide Cobras	18	7	3	8	33	39	-6	24
Adelaide Hills	17	6	3	8	36	22	14	21
Port Pirie City	17	6	2	9	25	40	-15	20
Northern Demons	17	5	3	9	28	29	-1	18
Western Strikers	18	5	3	10	32	34	-2	18
Panthers	17	5	3	9	28	53	-25	18
West Adelaide	18	3	3	12	18	49	-31	12

STATE U/19

Port Pirie City	4	Western Strikers	1
Adelaide Hills	5	West Adelaide	1
Enfield City	3	Metro Stars	0
Salisbury United	0	Adelaide City	1
Adelaide Cobras	0	Panthers	2
Noarlunga United	1	Northern Demons	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Adelaide City	17	16	1	0	74	4	70	49
Salisbury United	17	14	1	2	68	12	56	43
Enfield City	18	12	4	2	57	15	42	40
Adelaide Hills	17	11	2	4	70	15	55	35
West Adelaide	17	10	2	5	54	30	24	32
Metro Stars	18	8	4	6	32	22	10	28

Port Pirie City	17	6	0	11	31	60	-29	18
Western Strikers	18	4	4	10	17	38	-21	16
Panthers	17	5	1	11	18	42	-24	16
Noarlunga Utd	18	4	3	11	14	28	-14	15
Seaford	17	5	0	12	20	80	-60	15
Adelaide Cobras	18	3	3	12	15	63	-48	12
Northern Demons	17	1	3	13	9	70	-61	6

PREMIER U/19

Cumberland United	2	Modbury	0
Campbelltown City	3	Port Adelaide Lion	2
Elizabeth City	0	White City Warrior	3
Raiders	3	West Torrens Birka	0
Croydon	3	Olympians	0
Para Hills Knights	0	Adelaide Blue Eagle	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Campbelltown C	14	13	0	1	53	12	41	39
White City Warr	15	9	3	3	39	21	18	30
Adelaide Blue E	15	9	2	4	41	19	22	29
West Torrens B	15	7	5	3	36	17	19	26
Croydon	15	6	5	4	33	21	12	23
Modbury	15	7	1	7	29	26	3	22
Port Adelaide L	15	6	3	6	29	29	0	21
Cumberland Utd	15	5	4	6	30	26	4	19
Para Hills Knights	15	5	3	7	31	37	-6	18
Raiders	15	4	3	8	26	25	0	15
Elizabeth City	14	3	0	11	13	38	-25	9
Olympians	15	0	1	14	7	95	-88	1

Australian Features

Miss Port Kembla Soccer 1999

By John Economos

Ms Lisa Watkins from Wollongong has been crowned 'Miss Port Kembla Soccer' at the Club's 20th Anniversary Ball staged at the Fraternity Bowling and Recreation Club based at Fairy Meadow.

The attractive 16 year old student who attends St Mary's College at Wollongong, lifted the crown from a field of 11 lovely keen young ladies that entered.

Ms Watkins who also does Martial Arts as a sport, told ABSW, "When I finish High School I would very much like to pursue studies and make my career in Visual Design and Arts."

An extremely healthy record crowd of some 640 crammed in for the soccer ball at the 'Fraternity Club' which is annually staged to help raise funds for the Port Kembla Soccer team coached by the 1974 Australian World Cup and St George striker Adrian Alston.

The Club's most industrious Treasurer Ms Maria Cazzolli stated to ABSW, "It's really hard work for the girls and all of us, but in the end the whole affair is worth it."

"It's a great experience for the young ladies that enter the 'world of glamour'", ended Ms Cazzolli.

The young ladies efforts yielded some \$9,000 for the Club's coffers.

The high profiled and successful Port



From left... 'Miss Personality' Michelle Nikolovska, 'Miss Port Kembla Soccer 1999' Lisa Watkins and 'Miss Runner-Up' Anne Zamuner.

Taking out the 'Runner's Up' sash was the vivacious 16 year old Ms Anne Zamuner whilst the petite and delectable 17 year old Ms Michelle Nikolovska, came away with the sash of 'Miss Personality'.

Kembla Soccer Club which plays in the Illawarra Soccer League has already arranged for one of their 18 year old strikers to fly to Italy next month for trials with Serie A side and recent League Champions, AC Milan.

Have Your Say ...

Dear Sir,

I have a solution if new team's want to join the Ericsson Cup competition next season, and old ones want to remain.

Just add them on and split the NSL competition into two leagues, North and South. In the North team's come from NSW, ACT, Qld and NT.

In the South, the zone is Victoria, SA, WA, Tasmania and New Zealand. With Sydney and Melbourne teams being pretty equal in strength, they don't need to play against each other during the season, when few fans travel from the away side.

In turn that would create more local derby's with big crowds. If the Southern Zone has to many strong teams than the North, then either SA, or NZ can be added to the Northern sector.

As fans flock to see finals every end of season in large numbers, there would be two lots of finals with my idea, with the winners of each conference playing off against each other, in a Super Bowl Grand Final, with the home ground advantage to whoever finished highest on their ladder or with the highest points.

Obviously two groups of 10 teams each

would be needed minimum, to play 27 rounds of matches, with most teams still in the hunt for a top six finals position in their group almost right through to the end of the season.

A 17, 18 or 19 team competition in a single league, would see a long, trial of no-hopers dropping out of the finals race almost from about mid-season onwards.

Going back to the Super Bowl between the two group winners, they could be played as a two legged Grand Final, one in Sydney, and one in Melbourne, regardless of who is in the Grand Final Super Bowl.

As both those cities have the biggest stadiums, it would be only logical to use the best available.

Whether we are ready for that type of a competition here in Australia or not, I am not sure.

If it doesn't work, due to lack of quality players plus crowd attendances, the criteria for a Premier Division could be done after two or three seasons of a two conference system.

But as Darryl Sommers would say, "we'll never never know, if we never have a go."

Dominic Scullino

SYDNEY UNI TRIUMPH IN KENNARD CUP

By Graig Wilson

In a thrilling game that blew away the winter cold at University Oval, Sydney Uni won their first Kennard Cup since 1976 with a display of open and adventurous football that UNSW could not match, the visitors going down 5-2.

Although the match was a normal NSW Federation Division II competition game, it also doubled as the 2nd leg of the Kennard Cup, an annual challenge game between SU and UNSW which began in 1961.

Played until 1986, the trophy was locked away for ten years, and has been revived this year, Sydney Uni's first in the NSW Second Division since 1967.

The Cup originated with Sydney businessman and exiled Londoner William Kennard, a passionate football fan who utilised his entrepreneurial skills to bring pre-season night soccer to Sydney in the late fifties.

The double-header games featured NSW Soccer Federation giants such as Hakoah, Apia and Canterbury-Marrickville and drew huge crowds, establishing soccer firmly on the Sydney sporting map.

When Ampol came on board as a sponsor in 1959, Kennard donated his trophy to the two universities. It was thereafter played for annually as a challenge match, though UNSW have been dominant, restricting Sydney Uni to three wins in thirty years.

Sydney University will be delighted therefore with a win over a UNSW side that battled desperately to stay in the game, despite four goals from Sydney Uni striker, Rob Smithies.

With a chill in the air, both sides set out to test the opposition in the early minutes. SU's David Gill shot just wide, and Dax Bykerk ranged over the bar for Wales.

An open, physical game ensued with Sydney Uni's pressing game making things tight for UNSW, who were never able to develop a pattern.

Both sides were using wide-men to good effect, Gill beating his full-back on the right and crossing deep for Smithies at the far post who just failed to connect.

A minute later Smithies beat the UNSW offside trap, but was unable to control a bobbling ball.

Following a low shot from Claridge, which produced a fine save by Craw, Wales were also beginning to menace.

After a frantic period of action in the SU goal mouth, Papamanuel threatened on the left, and forced the ball through off Sydney defender McIntyre for the opener.

Matt Craw was then forced to save from UNSW striker, Bykerk, as his looping header sailed toward the top corner.

Striking back, Smithies was twice sent clear of the UNSW defence, but failed to find the target.

However in the 35th minute, a run and cross by Herat to the far post found the big number nine, who levelled the scores with a diving header.

The second half started brightly when McDougall rounded the UNSW keeper and hit the post, only for the ball to rebound into the path of a rampaging Smithies, who side-footed it into the goal.

Despite trailing, UNSW were beginning to exert pressure, with Bykerk particularly dangerous, but in the 57th minute, and against the run of play, Gill played a long ball across the goal mouth and Smithies was again in the right place to slide it into the net.

Having earlier seen a header saved by Craw, in the 60th minute Wales captain Nestor Moreno connected with a Nick Kodomichalos corner to net with

a header in a packed goal area.

UNSW replacement keeper, Nick Apoifis then pulled off a fine save from Smithies in the 62nd minute, but within five minutes Gill laid on a chance which McDougall netted to make it 4-2 after Chris Bowman had sent Gill clear.

Smithies then compounded UNSW's misery with a magical lob from outside the box, after Sydney substitute Felton had a chip blocked in the last minute of the game.

The Kennard Cup now proudly resides in the Sydney Uni trophy cabinet for the first time since 1967.

With Sydney Uni alumnus, Aboriginal rights campaigner and Australian soccer legend Charlie Perkins among the 200 spectators, both sides put on a marvellous advertisement for football at this level.



The Kennard Cup which this year sits in the hands of Sydney University.



Action from the Kennard Cup which was won by Sydney University after winning the second leg by 5-2.

Australian Features



It's time for a Four Diegos Soft Sombrero moment.
So sit back and relax, and share a Soft Sombrero moment with our Diegos guest this week, a man who is backing the treble-winning, mega club, Manchester United's tour of Australia in July.
Please give a big Four Diegos welcome to one of Australia's leading stockbrokers and entrepreneurs - Rene Rivkin.



RENE THE RED DEVIL RIVKIN

Diegos: "Congratulations on undertaking the exciting initiative of bringing the world renowned Manchester United to Australia in July."

"After they pulled off the magnificent treble in the Champions league final against Bayern Munich in the early hours of Thursday morning a couple of weeks ago, what was your reaction - did you dance around in your pyjamas like the Diegos did?"

Rivkin: "I must admit I'm not a very good dancer but if I could dance I certainly would have. It was an unbelievable game. I've always regarded myself as one of luckiest businessmen this country has ever seen, so the end result, I suppose, fits in with my luck."

Diegos: "After the great win by Manchester United the resultant frenzy to buy tickets was described by Rivkin Group Managing Director, Dominic Galati as 'The Punters going berserk!'"

"We know you invested \$8 million into the tour purely for the love of it but are you that little bit more excited now than prior to the Red Devils big treble win?"

Rivkin: "Did Domenic actually say for the love of it?"

"I'd imagine that that is something that the Diegos have invented. Of course I'm much more excited now. I think the game is going to be a fantastic match. I just hope Australia fields the best team that it possibly can and I'm told that they will because it is in the contract."

Diegos: "We've heard a rumour that in your spare time you like to dabble a little on the stock market. The Diegos too, like to buy low and sell high and it seems there are big money consortiums all around Australia trying to do the same with Aussie soccer."

"You've invested heavily in the upcoming Manchester United tour. What is it about Aussie Soccer that makes you confident that it's money well spent?"

Rivkin: "If you're asking about the Manchester United game the answer is yes because we have already sold enough tickets to make a profit."

"Therefore I'm very confident that it is money well spent, the proof being the money currently lying in the bank."

"As far as investing in the game generally in Australia, I believe soccer has a great future but having said that, it's had a great future for quite a long time with its potential never really realised."

"I firmly believe that if organisations like Left Field Solutions, who promoted the Socceroos against the World All Stars, and the Rivkin Group, who are bringing out Manchester United, can continue to back such tours then I think that it will increase the interest that Australians have in soccer."

"It's very interesting that tickets can sell out for major international games yet in the national league,

some of the crowd attendances are pathetic."

"One of the major problems is that there are still a number of teams in the league that continue to have strong ethnic ties."

"I can understand why this is so but it makes it a very political game whereas Rugby league or AFL is more linked to regional areas so the nature of barracking is very different. It has been improving over the years but has not clearly reached the ideal level yet."

"I believe however, that soccer in the next ten years will really grow fast."

Diegos: "The Australian versus Iran Match and the Perth Glory finals attendance's are proof that providing a big game of soccer that showcases the very best will guarantee to put a snap in the shorts of even the most cynical Aussie sports lover."

"Was Manchester United approached because they are guaranteed to excite the Aussie public?"

Rivkin: "I brought out the Brazilian Olympic team to play the Olyroos last year. That series was modestly profitable so this time I certainly wasn't going to bring out a team that I thought wasn't going to be a smashing winner."

"The fact that I was able to get Manchester United was fantastic because as a kid I used to like soccer very much and the Red Devils were my favorite team. Everyone loves them at the moment so that's why they are such a good choice."

"The fact that they recently clinched the treble is a huge bonus."

"If the Aussies field their best team it will be a fantastic game and even if they don't, it'll still be a wonderful game to watch but it will be more of an exhibition."

"Where the Socceroos versus the All Stars game was clearly an exhibition, our game features an established world class team with an enormous reputation to uphold and that's why there will be more of an edge to the game."

Diegos: "Which Manchester United players are you especially looking forward to seeing?"

Rivkin: "I especially want to see David Beckham. He should be here because it is written in the contract."

Diegos: "Is his wife, Posh Spice in the contract too?"

Rivkin: "Unfortunately she's not in the contract."

Diegos: "The Diegos personal broker, Gordon Gecko Diego, tells us that you are somewhat of a finely tuned share market athlete. What about your prowess on the sport's field as a young kid?"

Rivkin: "You've obviously never seen me. I was 125kg when I was 16 years old and to my knowledge, you very rarely find junior soccer champions that weigh that much."

Diegos: "If your coach had any foresight at all he could've moulded you into an excellent 'There's no way through- He's just too big!' goalkeeper."

Rivkin: "I wasn't that wide!"

Diegos: "In Diego's Soccer Business parlance, you were a member of the 'World Masters of Business Conference' back four - which includes 'Stormin Norman' Schwazkopf, Al 'Chainshaw' Dunlap, and Mikhail 'Gorby' Gorbachev."

"When you scrubbed each others backs in the showers after a hectic conference day, do you ever talk soccer?"

Rivkin: "No, no, in short definitely not! We spoke of things that we all knew about. With Norman Schwazkopf, I spoke about the Gulf war and American politics. I must say I was fascinated about the stuff he told me."

"He for example, told me about the time that both Bill Clinton and one of his opponents, Ross Perot had approached him to be their vice president at the same time. In the showers there wasn't much soccer talk unfortunately."

Diegos: "It seems that to hang around such company you need a catchy nickname. The Diegos believe for you to really establish a 'soul - brother' type affinity with Manchester United, you should go for something like Rene 'Red Devil' Rivkin. What's your view?"

Rivkin: "Even though I'm a high profile Sydney identity, if the nickname like that earns me substantial dollars, you can call me anything you like."

Diegos: "You are regarded as a master strategist in the stock market and Manchester United manager, the legendary Sir Alex Ferguson is regarded as a master strategist on the soccer field. Any chance that, over a quiet cognac or two on their tour downunder, you'll slip him a few tips on how he should coach his team?"

Rivkin: "No, I believe you stick to what you know best. I'll stick to the stock market and he'll stick to the coaching."

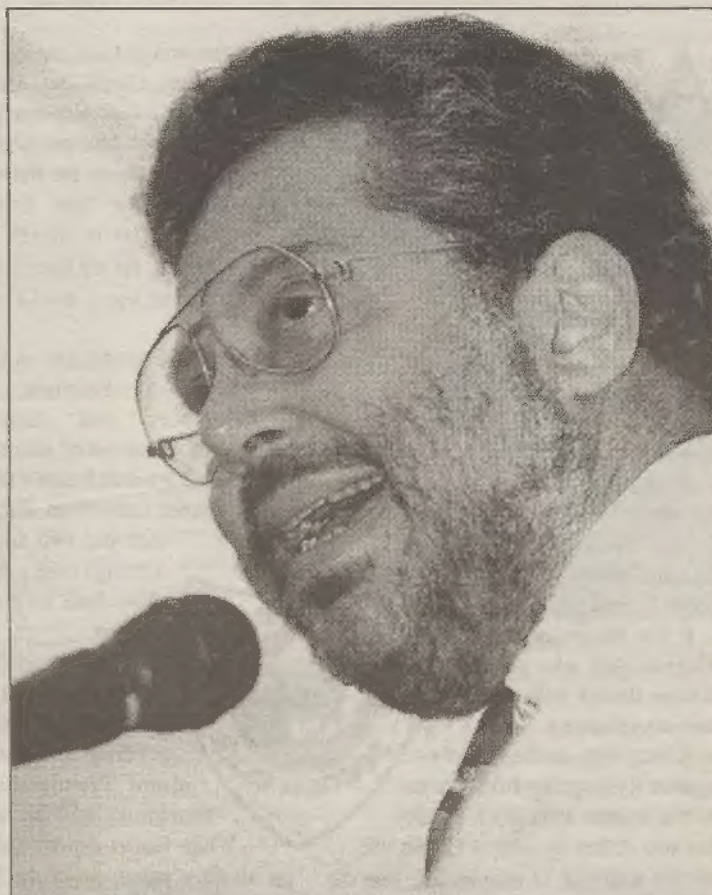
Diegos: "Many big clubs around the world are now being floated on the stock market - Lazio in Italy, Newcastle United and of course, Manchester United in the UK just to name a few."

"Do you believe that investing in sporting clubs on the stock market will be a big thing in the future?"

Rivkin: "I think it will be a thing of the future. I attempted to buy Sydney Olympic Soccer Club about 18 months ago but lost out to another syndicate."

"The only reason I believe I didn't succeed, even though I won the first vote hands down, was because I didn't have any existing cultural ties to the club."

"That in a nutshell, in my opinion, is the problem with Australian soccer. The Olympic members



Rene Rivkin ... Congratulations are in hand after having the initiative of bringing Manchester United to Australia.

deemed through their vote that the club had to be run by people who possessed the same cultural roots that the club was founded on."

"I had plans to build it as a business and then float it on the stock market. That hasn't come through and at this stage, I've given up on that idea."

"That's not to say that I won't renew that prospect in the next couple of years, if my perception is right that soccer will become better managed therefore making it a much bigger game than it is now. I don't think the way things are done now, allows the game to flourish as it should."

Diegos: "Your uncanny ability to pick trends well before they occur makes you a perfect candidate for the Four Diegos Heart Balm Quiz where we would like you to give your brief inner most heart felt predictions on the following questions: Will the Socceroos beat Manchester United in June?"

Rivkin: "Unfortunately no", the score, 2-1."

Diegos: "Will Posh Spice and the Spice girls serenade you to sleep one night?"

Rivkin: "I can answer that with 100% certainty, unfortunately the answer is no!"

Diegos: "Will the Four Diegos' investment in Beta video recorders boom one day?"

Rivkin: "I'm sorry to say guys, but no."

Diegos: "Thanks Red Devil. For the right fee, instead of the Spice girls, The Four Diegos would be happy to serenade you to sleep one night. Have a think about it mate! Adios Amigo."

Rivkin: "Thanks Diegos. I've seen what you guys charge! Give me the Spice Girls anytime. Adios Amigos!"

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am - 12 midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on
FourDiegos@bigpond.com



NSW SUPER LEAGUE

HAT-TRICK HERO SINKS BLACKTOWN

A wet weekend in Sydney saw Saturday night's clash between Eastern Suburbs and the Sutherland Sharks washed out.

The game between the bottom two has a huge bearing on who finishes bottom, and it is hoped the game will be played sometime this week.

On Sunday, leaders Blacktown suffered their second defeat in a row, and also lost top spot to Bonnyrigg.

Blacktown went down 4-3 at Fairfield, for whom Matthew Borg scored a hat-trick to take his tally for the season to 17 - the highest in the NSW Super League this season.

It was his partner Mark Hoenselaars who got the winner though with just 18 minutes remaining.

Bonnyrigg started badly against Ryde, going 1-0 down to a 15th minute John Koch penalty, but two strikes by Johnny Ghiso, the second with just 12 minutes left, sees the White Eagles open up a two point gap on

Blacktown with just one match to play.

Macarthur edged out Canterbury Marrickville 2-0 at Henson Park with goals from David Reid and Shane Knight ending any chance the Berries had of making the top five, while Parramatta in fourth look like making the top five after their 1-0 win at home over the Central Coast.

Bankstown are in fifth, just ahead of Fairfield on goal difference, and they ended Leichhardt's chances of making the top five with a 2-1 win at Jensen Park.

The winner came from Zoki Adioski with just two minutes left, although even a draw would have been no good for the Tigers.

Next week sees Bonnyrigg travel to Canterbury Marrickville needing a victory for the Minor Premiership, while Blacktown will be hoping the White Eagles slip up and they can get all three points out of the Parramatta Eagles.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND



22

Sunday 4th July

Central Coast v Eastern Suburbs

Plum Park, 3:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Macarthur Rams

Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Blacktown City Demons

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Bankstown City Lions

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Canterbury Marrickville v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Henson Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Fairfield Bulls

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

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NSW SOCCER FEDERATION INFORMATION SERVICE

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(75c per min - IDS. Higher rates applies from mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Eastern Suburbs vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2(J Ghiso 35/78m) bt Ryde City 1(J Koch 15m Pen), Bankstown City 2(S Dimoski 27m, Z Adioski 88m) bt Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Own Goal 67m), Fairfield Bulls 4(M Borg 29/39/53m, M Hoenselaars 72m) bt Blacktown City 3(J Angelucci 13m, D Brown 63m, D Smith 65m), Parramatta Eagles 1 (B Conde 56m) bt Central Coast, Macarthur Rams 2(D Reid 26m, S Knight 71m).

UNDER 21: Eastern Suburbs vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Ryde City 2 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Bankstown City 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Blacktown City 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Central Coast 1, Macarthur Rams 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0.

UNDER 18: Eastern Suburbs v Sutherland Sharks W/O, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 drew Ryde City 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Bankstown City 1, Blacktown City 4 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Central Coast 0, Canterbury M'Ville 2 bt Macarthur Rams 0.

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: AC United 1 (F Scorpens 34m) bt Dulwich Hill 1 (I De Jesus 21m), Auburn United vs Moorebank Sports W/O, St George 4(S Verrinder 12m, S Janic 30/63m) bt Hurstville City 1 (T Pontidas 19m), Stanmore Hawks vs Bathurst 75 W/O, Rockdale City Suns 2 (G Tposki 13/20m) bt Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah 1(D Harding 89m) bt Illawarra Lions 0.

UNDER 21: AC United 3 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Auburn United vs Moorebank Sports W/O, St George 0 drew Hurstville City 0, Stanmore Hawks vs Bathurst 75 W/O, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Rockdale City Suns 0 Manly Warringah 4 bt Illawarra Lions 1.

UNDER 18: AC United 7 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Auburn United vs Moorebank Sports W/O, St George 5 bt Hurstville City 1, Stanmore Hawks vs Bathurst 75 W/O, Penrith Panthers 3 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Manly Warringah 4 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Mt Druitt 1(P Graham 71m) bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Sydney University vs Greystanes W/O, Hills United 1 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Fraser Park 5 bt University of NSW 0, Belmore Hercules vs Arncliffe Scots W/O, Mt Pritchard 0 drew Sydney District 0.

UNDER 21: Mt Druitt 4 bt Hurstville ZSC 2, Sydney University vs Greystanes W/O, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Hills United 2, University of NSW 2 drew Fraser Park 2, Belmore Hercules vs Arncliffe Scots W/O, Mt Pritchard 4 bt Sydney District 2.

UNDER 18: Mt Druitt Town 1 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Sydney University vs Greystanes W/O, Hills United 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, University of NSW 2 drew Fraser Park 2, Belmore Hercules vs Arncliffe Scots W/O Mt Pritchard 14 bt Sydney District 1.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: The Wanderers 1 bt Gladesville United 0, White City 3 bt Western Sydney Lions 2, Hakoah 5 bt Prospect United 0, Colo Colo 2 bt Liverpool City 1, Trasandinos 1 bt Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 8 bt Maroubra United 0.

SECOND GRADE: The Wanderers 5 bt Gladesville United 2, Western Sydney Lions 1 drew White City 1, Hakoah 5 bt Prospect United 1, Colo Colo 4 bt Liverpool City 3, Trasandinos 1 bt Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 1 bt Maroubra United 0.

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Marrickville 3 drew Eastern Creek Pioneers 3, Nepean District 3 bt Marrickville 0, Balmain 2 bt Granville Greenisland 1, Holy Cross Ryde 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Prairiewood United 7 bt Hawkesbury 0, Auburn Star vs Eastern Creek Pioneers W/O, Sydney Crescent Star 4 bt Springwood 3, White Valley vs United Eagles W/O.

SECOND GRADE: Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 bt Marrickville 1, Nepean District 3 bt Marrickville 1, Balmain 4 bt Granville Greenisland 1, Holy Cross Ryde 5 bt CSI Schofields 0, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Prairiewood United 1, Auburn Star vs Eastern Creek Pioneers W/O, Springwood 5 bt Sydney Crescent Star 0, White Valley vs United Eagles W/O.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Bossy 9 bt Earlwood Hermes 1, AVA United 2 bt UTS 0, Earlwood Hermes vs Bossy W/O, Kellyville Kolts 4 bt Sporting SCC 0, Macquarie Sports vs Kosciusko W/O, Homenetmen 2 bt Lithgow Workmen 1, Sydney Tusc 1 drew Liverpool Olympic 1.

SECOND GRADE: Bossy 3 bt Earlwood Hermes 0, UTS 3 bt AVA United 1, Earlwood Hermes vs Bossy W/O, Kellyville Kolts 2 drew Sporting SCC 2, Macquarie Sports vs Kosciusko W/O, Lithgow Workmen 4 bt Homenetmen 0, Sydney Tusc 6 bt Liverpool Olympic 5.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: NSW Inst/Academy 3 bt Nepean Panthers 1, NSW Inst/Academy 5 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Fairfield 6 bt Shoalhaven Association 1, UWS Macarthur Rams 1 drew Gladesville Ravens 1, NNSW ITC/Academy vs Sydney United W/O, Nepean Panthers 6 bt Central Coast 0.

UNDER 21: NSW Inst/Academy 6 bt Nepean Panthers 2, Sutherland Sharks 0 drew NSW Inst/Academy 0, Marconi Fairfield 7 bt Shoalhaven Association, Gladesville Ravens 1 bt UWS Macarthur Rams, NNSW ITC/Academy vs Sydney United W/O, Nepean Panthers 0 drew Central Coast 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: St George Association 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Wollongong Wolves 12 bt Bankstown United 1, Bathurst City 1 drew Manly Warringah 1, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0 drew Roselands 0.

UNDER 19: St George 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Wollongong Wolves 6 bt Bankstown United 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt Bathurst City 1, Roselands 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers 2 drew Newcastle Breakers 2, Southern Districts 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Sydney United 0, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Central Coast 2, Southern Branch 4 bt Southern Branch 0, Sydney Olympic vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Blacktown City 4 bt Manly Warringah 1, Newcastle Breakers 1 drew Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney United 3 bt Central Coast 1.

UNDER 14: Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Southern Districts 1, Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Sydney United 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Central Coast 2, Southern Branch 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Sydney Olympic vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Manly Warringah 2 bt Blacktown City 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Sydney United 4 bt Central Coast 1.

UNDER 15: Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Gladesville Hornsby 5 bt Southern Districts 1, Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Sydney United 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Central Coast 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 6 bt Southern Branch 0, Sydney Olympic vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Blacktown City 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney United 3 bt Central Coast 2.

UNDER 16: Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Southern Districts 1, Parramatta Eagles vs Macarthur Rams W/O, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Sydney United 0, Central Coast 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Southern Branch 0, Sydney Olympic vs Sutherland Sharks W/O, Manly Warringah 1 drew Blacktown City 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Sydney United 4 bt Central Coast 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Blacktown Association 6 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association vs AC United W/O, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Ryde City 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 drew Stanmore Hawks 2, St George vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Rockdale City Suns 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Canterbury Association v Hills United W/O.

UNDER 14: Blacktown Association 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association vs AC United W/O, Ryde City 3 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, St George vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Rockdale City Suns 4 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Canterbury Association v Hills United W/O.

UNDER 15: Blacktown Association 0 drew Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association vs AC United W/O, Ryde City 1 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 bt Stanmore Hawks 2, St George vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Fairfield Bulls 4 bt Rockdale City Suns 2, Canterbury Association v Hills United W/O.

UNDER 16: Blacktown Association 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Bankstown Association vs AC United W/O, Ryde City 3 bt Illawarra Lions 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, St George vs Penrith Panthers W/O, Fairfield Bulls 3 bt Rockdale City Suns 2, Canterbury Association vs Hills United W/O.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13: Camden Tigers 2 bt Nepean Association 1, Macquarie Sports vs Mt Pritchard W/O, Parramatta City 1 drew Granville Association 1, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Hawkesbury City 2 bt CSI Schofields 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 5 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

UNDER 14: Camden Tigers 1 bt Nepean Association 0, Macquarie Sports v Mt Pritchard W/O, Parramatta City 2 bt Granville Association 0, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, CSI Schofields 1 drew Hawkesbury City 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 6 bt Moorebank Sports 1.

UNDER 15: Nepean Association 0 drew Camden Tigers 0, Macquarie Sports v Mt Pritchard W/O, Parramatta City 3 bt Granville Association 0, Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Mt Druitt Town 2, CSI Schofields 1 drew Hawkesbury City 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 4 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

UNDER 16: Nepean Association 4 bt Camden Tigers 0, Macquarie Sports v Mt Pritchard W/O, Parramatta City 3 bt Granville Association 1, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 0, Hawkesbury City 3 bt CSI Schofields 0, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

SWEDEN TO STYLISH FOR THE MATILDAS

AUSTRALIA

Murray 32

SWEDEN

Tornqvist 9, Ljungberg 21, 69

Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, Washington

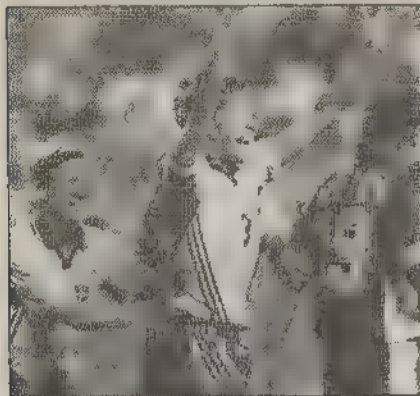
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The Matildas' chances of qualifying for the World Cup quarterfinals struck a tragic setback with a 3-1 loss to Sweden at the Jack Kent Cooke Stadium in Washington.

Coach Greg Brown made two changes from the side which took on Ghana.

Belinda Kitching edged out Tracey



Svensson celebrates with Tornqvist (m) as Aussie Dianne Alagich walks off.

Swedish outfit in the must-win clash for both sides.

Sweden combined well as a unit, taking control with a solid consistent passing game.

Australia on the other hand seemed very rushed and unsettled and, as in the earlier Ghana match, pumped too many long balls forward.

Sweden were rewarded with the lead as early as the ninth minute, placing the Aussies under even more pressure.

Malin Andersson floated her corner kick to the far post from where the awaiting Jane Tornqvist converted with a strong close-range header.

Five minutes later, Sweden were unlucky not to add another, Andersson shooting just over the crossbar with a 28 metre scorch.

An Australian freekick in the 17th minute provided Alison Forman with a great opportunity from eight metres, but her strike on the turn flew well over the target.

Then four minutes later, Sweden's lead was doubled, a low cross from the left taking a slight deflection off a defender to leave Australian keeper Belinda Kitching lunging at air as the ball bounced just too far in front of her.

The unmarked Hanna Ljungberg at the far post was left with the easy task of controlling and tapping the ball into the open net.

Matildas' captain Julie Murray once again led by example to pull the deficit back to one with a classy goal in the 32nd minute.

A pass from Casagrande was intercepted by her opponent, but the hard working Julie Murray rushed in for the tackle and won the ball back.

With two defenders in her wake as she strode towards goal, Murray coolly slotted the ball past the outcoming keeper, almost a carbon copy of the goal she scored against Ghana.

But Sweden remained in control and continued to pressurise the Australian goal. In the 65th minute, Australia was caught in possession and the ball slotted to release Swedish striker Lyungberg behind the defence for a clear path on goal.

One on one with the keeper her shot on the run from just outside the box was brilliantly stopped in its path by the diving Kitching out in penalty spot territory.

But four minutes later, Sweden did score again to all but kill off Australia's chances.

A high ball forward from Victoria Svensson was not cleared by defender Sarah Cooper and keeper Kitching, allowing Player of the Match Ljungberg to get a foot to the ball in front of the open goal to seal the match.

Kitching impressed all with a second amazing save with eight minutes remaining, outstretched to stop another certain goal from the edge of the box.

The outcome also marred the occasion for Cheryl Salisbury and Alison Forman, both playing their 50th full international.

Best for Australia were Murray up front, goalkeeper Kitching who made two brilliant saves, and defender Dianne Alagich.

The result meant Australia was left with the mammoth task of beating Olympic silver medallists China and then depending on Ghana defeating Sweden to advance through to the next stage.

A draw to Sweden would mean Australia would have to beat China by four clear goals to advance on goal difference.

"We're obviously disappointed as we now

have to depend on other results going our way," said National Coach Greg Brown.

"To win these crucial games, we need to be able to handle the pressure and stick to the game plan, which we didn't.

For our next match (against China), we'll look at game again and discuss things, and maybe make a few changes."

Australia: Kitching, Alagich, Starr (Tann-Darby 87), Bartlett, Cooper (Jannotta 77), Black (Golebiowski 58), Forman, Peters, Casagrande, Murray, Salisbury.



Murray once again scored for the Matildas.

MATILDAS ELIMINATED FROM CUP

AUSTRALIA

Salisbury 66

CHINA

Wen 39, 51, Ying 73

Giants Stadium, New Jersey.

1

3

The Matildas have been eliminated from the World Cup Finals following the 3-1 loss to Olympic silver medallists and hot favourites, China at Giants Stadium in New York.

Australia clearly put in their best performance of the championship but were faced with a near impossible challenge in the must-win game with the harsh 2nd minute sending-off of striker Alicia Ferguson for a clumsy but not reckless tackle.

Ferguson launched herself from the side in an attempt to win the ball but caught Bai Jie as she was trying to jump over the tackle.

Bai Jie went flying and ended up sprawled on the ground with American referee Sandra Hunt showing no hesitation to pull out the red card.

The expulsion was especially hard for the 17-year-old who was making her first appearance for the tournament.

A player down, the Matildas battled hard in the steamy 33 degree heat before a Giants Stadium crowd of 29,401, the largest attendance for the event for a match not involving the home side, American.

The Aussies were more resolute in the tackle, hungrier and more settled on the ball putting together at least a semblance of their usual passing game, although still not combining at their absolute sharp best and a little heavy footed.

The Matildas had a 5th minute freekick opportunity cleared and from then on were restricted to their defensive third for much of the first half.

After escaping two near misses, the Aussies sent through a perfect through ball to release Julie Murray

behind the Chinese defence.

But as Murray set off toward goal to give Australia the lead, referee Hunt pulled the play back for a very questionable offside decision.

Australia held firm in defence until six minutes from half-time when Chinese sharpshooter Sun Wen was allowed space in front of goal to head strongly home from seven metres.

China doubled their lead six minutes after the break with a dangerous cross and touch back to Sun Wen for the star to nail her second for the match and fifth for the tournament.

Australia made one of their rare chances count in the 66th minute to pull the deficit back to one.

Captain Julie Murray's cross from the left found the unmarked Cheryl Salisbury whose shot on the turn was parried by the goalkeeper but the shot had enough legs



Aussie Dianne Alagich goes in for a tackle to eliminate Jannotta's chances on.

to roll over the line for a scoreline of 2-1.

But China sunk any hopes of an Australian comeback with their third goal seven minutes later.

Another neat passing combination resulted in a Liu Ying shot from 15 metres which took a deflection off a defender's leg to give Matildas' keeper Belinda Kitching no chance.

Disappointing results earlier in the tournament all but ruined Australia's hopes of a quarterfinal berth, but this improved display will boost deflated morale as they head home and look toward the coming twelve months leading into the 8-nation Olympic Games tournament.

"I was very disappointed to concede the goal before half-time as I thought we were going okay till then," said National Coach Greg Brown.

"That's the first time I've seen a player sent off in the first minute and I don't think the crowd approved, but in fairness I didn't see the tackle."

The Matildas departed the US the following day and those returning home are scheduled to arrive back in Australia this morning (Tue).

Australia: Kitching, Bartlett, Starr, Tann-Darby, Alagich, Golebiowski, Forman (Wilson 79), Salisbury (Hepperlin 86), Casagrande (Jannotta 72), Murray, Ferguson.

The Matildas have always held the belief they could at least make the quarterfinals of this World Cup. Their early lack of form in the matches against Ghana and Sweden saw that dream slip quickly down the drain.

World Cup football is unlike other international tournaments. You don't get second chances. One slip up will cost you for the rest of the tournament.

For reasons yet to be uncovered, despite all the preparation and hard work leading up to this major event, Australia failed to deliver the goods when it counted.

As was always the plan, an extensive review will look at the whole package, the program, the players,



Salisbury pulled one back for the Matildas but it wasn't enough to keep them in the World Cup.

the methodology and this full assessment will now take on added significance.

"The World Cup is always a good test of your ability, and we have a lot of work to do before the Olympics," said National Coach Greg Brown in his summing up to the media immediately after the China match.

"We have to learn to play our game, play to our strengths, but we lost our heads a bit. The first two games were more of a disappointment as we thought we could win those."

"Certainly we played better in our preparation and we'll have to review the whole thing. We've now got to ask ourselves why, was it the occasion, was it the preparation, etcetera. You can't go from beating China, Italy and Sweden to a team that can't play. I just feel a few things didn't go our way and we didn't play our best. There are lessons learnt by the players and myself and we still have twelve months to put things right."

VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 15

Richmond 1 - Oakleigh 1
North Geelong Warriors 2 - Yarraville Glory 2
Lalor United 1 - Werribee City 1
Melbourne City 2 - Westgate 1
Doncaster Rovers 0 - Northcote City 4
Springvale City 2 - Western Suburbs 0
Heidelberg United 4 - Kingston City 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	15	9	4	2	28	14	31
Heidelberg United	15	9	4	2	35	22	31
Lalor United	15	9	3	3	33	20	30
Westgate	15	9	2	4	29	19	29
Yarraville Glory	15	6	4	5	26	23	22
Western Suburbs	15	6	3	6	22	20	21
Richmond	15	5	5	5	22	26	20
Northcote City	15	5	2	8	31	28	17
Doncaster Rovers	15	4	5	6	28	25	17
Nth Geelong Warriors	15	3	8	4	21	22	17
Melbourne City	15	5	2	8	23	32	17
Springvale City	15	4	3	8	14	24	15
Kingston City	15	4	3	8	18	33	15
Werribee City	15	1	4	10	15	37	7

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Yarraville Glory v Oakleigh
Sunday July 4
Western Suburbs v Northcote City
Doncaster Rovers v Melbourne City
Westgate v Lalor United
Werribee City v North Geelong Warriors
Kingston City v Richmond
Monday July 5
Heidelberg United v Springvale City

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 15

Knox City 1 - Ringwood City 1
Thomastown/Regent 0 - Cranbourne Comets 3
Frankston Pines 1 - Diamond Valley United 1
Essendon 5 - Altona City 0
East Richmond 0 - Frankston Strikers 3
Croydon City Arrows 0 - Old Scotch Waverley 1
Satellite City Rovers 3 - Geelong 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	15	9	6	0	38	7	33
Frankston Pines	14	8	5	1	36	15	29
Geelong	15	8	4	3	27	23	28
Cranbourne Comets	15	6	5	4	27	21	23
Knox City	15	6	4	5	22	17	22
East Richmond	15	6	4	5	21	23	22
Old Scotch Waverley	14	6	3	5	14	18	21
Altona City	15	6	3	6	12	23	21
Frankston Strikers	15	5	4	6	25	21	19
Thomastown/Regent	15	4	4	7	26	27	16
Satellite City Rovers	15	4	3	8	16	28	15
Ringwood City	15	3	5	7	19	33	14
Croydon City Arrows	15	2	5	8	16	26	11
Diamond Valley United	15	1	5	9	14	31	8

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Croydon City Arrows v Satellite City Rovers
Geelong v East Richmond
Frankston Strikers v Essendon
Altona City v Frankston Pines
Diamond Valley United v Thomastown/Regent
Cranbourne Comets v Knox City
Old Scotch Waverley v Ringwood City

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 15

Broadmeadows City 0 - Fitzroy City 1
Bell Park 2 - Keilor Park 1
Mooroolbark 2 - South Wantima 4
North Coburg United 6 - Williamstown 2
South Springvale 4 - Banyule City 2
Stonnington City 0 - Pascoe Vale 4
Laverton Park 1 - Moreland City 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	15	10	3	2	37	21	33
Fitzroy City	15	8	6	1	34	19	30

North Coburg United	15	9	3	3	30	16	30
South Wantima	15	8	3	4	27	16	27
South Springvale	15	6	8	1	23	11	26
Moreland City	15	7	3	5	28	20	24
Laverton Park	15	6	6	3	25	18	24
Mooroolbark	15	5	4	6	17	27	19
Williamstown	15	4	3	8	25	33	15
Pascoe Vale	15	4	3	8	24	34	15
Bell Park	15	3	5	7	20	30	14
Keilor Park	15	4	1	10	19	29	13
Broadmeadows City	14	3	2	9	20	33	11
Banyule City	14	0	4	10	12	34	4

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Stonnington City v Laverton Park
Moreland City v Banyule City
South Springvale v North Coburg United
Williamstown v Mooroolbark
South Wantima v Bell Park
Keilor Park v Broadmeadows City
Pascoe Vale v Fitzroy City

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 15

Keysborough 1 - Corio 2
Geelong Rangers 1 - Melton 0
Langwarrin 7 - Nunawading City 2
Chelsea 1 - Sandringham City 2
Crofton Park 3 - Seaford United 3
Clifton Hill United 1 - Lalor 0
Sunbury United 1 - Lyndale United 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	14	13	1	0	54	12	40
Sandringham City	15	11	2	2	51	25	35
Lyndale United	14	9	3	2	33	19	30
Seaford United	15	7	3	5	33	29	24
Crofton Park	15	5	8	2	32	23	23
Melton	15	6	3	6	22	22	21
Sunbury United	15	6	2	7	27	25	20
Keysborough	15	4	4	7	32	27	16
Geelong Rangers	15	4	4	7	19	31	16
Lalor	13	4	3	6	21	25	15
Clifton Hill United	15	4	2	9	22	40	14
Corio	15	3	4	8	15	37	13
Chelsea	15	2	5	8	17	37	11
Nunawading City	15	2	2	11	16	42	8

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Clifton Hill United v Sunbury United
Lyndale United v Crofton Park
Seaford United v Chelsea
Sandringham City v Langwarrin
Nunawading City v Geelong Rangers
Melton v Keysborough
Lalor v Corio



WOMENS' LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 10

Westvale 1 - Cranbourne A 3
South Melbourne 4 - Essendon A 2
Heidelberg United v Keilor Park - no result received
Manningham - bye
Endeavour United - bye

Table - Cranbourne A 24, Keilor Park 16, Manningham 15, Westvale 13, South Melbourne 10, Essendon A 7, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
Manningham v Heidelberg United
South Melbourne v Keilor Park
Essendon A v Westvale
Cranbourne A v Endeavour United

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 10

NO RESULTS OR TABLE RECEIVED

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
Newborough/Yallourn v Seaford United
Knox County v Yarraville Glory
Endeavour Hills v Waverley Taipans
Ballarat Strikers - bye
Cranbourne B - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST -

ROUND 10

Ballarat City 2 - Brimbank 2
Mill Park 0 - Brunswick City 2
Eltham North 4 - Essendon B 0
Laverton Park 6 - Fairfield Falcons A 2
Thornbury United 1 - Calder Strikers 4
Table - Ballarat City 26, Laverton Park 21, Brunswick City 19, Brimbank 19, Calder Strikers 17, Eltham North 17, Fairfield Falcons A 13, Mill Park 6, Essendon B 6, Thornbury United 0.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
Calder Strikers v Laverton Park
Fairfield Falcons A v Eltham North
Essendon B v Mill Park
Brimbank v Thornbury United
Brunswick City v Ballarat City

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST -

ROUND 10

Bentleigh Greens 1 - Carringbush 0
Gippsland Falcons v Monash Uni - no result received
Springvale City v Monbulk - no result received
Frankston Pines v South Wantima - no result received
Table - Bentleigh Greens 24, Carringbush 16, Springvale City 13, Gippsland Falcons 9, Monash Uni 9, Monbulk 7, South Wantima 4, Frankston Pines 0.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
South Wantima v Springvale City
Monbulk v Gippsland Falcons
Carringbush v Frankston Pines
Monash University - bye
Bentleigh Greens - bye

DIVISION 3 NTH-WEST -

ROUND 10

Fairfield Falcons B 2 - Deakin University 0
North Reservoir 6 - Maribyrnong United 0
La Trobe University 2 - Melbourne Raiders 2
Diamond Valley United v Melton - no result received
Pascoe Vale - bye
Table - North Reservoir 24, Melton 22, Melbourne Raiders 18, Fairfield Falcons B 15, La Trobe University 10, Pascoe Vale 9, Deakin University 9, Diamond Valley United 4, Maribyrnong United 1

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
Melton v La Trobe University
Melbourne Raiders v North Reservoir
Maribyrnong United v Fairfield Falcons B
Deakin University v Pascoe Vale
Diamond Valley United - bye

DIVISION 3 STH-EAST - RND 7

Sandringham City 2 - Melbourne University 2
Hampton Park v Crystal United - no result received
Monash Gryphon 1 - East Bentleigh 0
Box Hill Inter - bye
Table - Hampton Park 15, Melbourne University 11, Box Hill Inter 11, Sandringham City 5, Monash Gryphon 5, Crystal United 3, East Bentleigh 3.

ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Sunday July 11
Box Hill Inter v East Bentleigh
Monash Gryphon v Crystal United
Hampton Park v Melbourne University
Sandringham City - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 12

Brunswick City 3 - Dandenong 0
Endeavour United 1 - Templestowe Eagles 0
Morwell Pegasus 2 - North Sunshine Eagles 0
South Caulfield 2 - Monbulk 3
Sydenham Park 5 - Springvale Condors 2
Riversdale 0 - Mitcham United 1
Table - Endeavour United 31, Morwell Pegasus 26, Brunswick City 25, Sydenham Park 22, Riversdale 20, Mitcham United 19, North Sunshine Eagles 13, Templestowe Eagles 12, Monbulk 12, Dandenong 8, Springvale Condors 6, South Caulfield 5.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Mitcham United v Sydenham Park
Springvale Condors v South Caulfield
Monbulk v Morwell Pegasus
North Sunshine Eagles v Endeavour United
Dandenong v Riversdale
Templestowe Eagles v Brunswick City

DIVISION 2 NTH-WEST - RND 12

Somerton City 2 - Ballarat 0
Hoppers Crossing 2 - Elwood City 2
Broadmeadows United 2 - Meadow Park 1
Glenroy 1 - South Yarra 3
Mill Park 0 - Keon Park 2
Melbourne University 0 - University of Melbourne 0
Table - Hoppers Crossing 25, Glenroy 25, University of Melbourne 22, Somerton City 21, Elwood City 20, Ballarat 16, Melbourne University 16, Mill Park 14, Broadmeadows United 12, South Yarra 9, Keon Park 9, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
University of Melbourne v Mill Park
Keon Park v Glenroy
South Yarra v Broadmeadows United
Meadow Park v Hoppers Crossing
Ballarat v Melbourne University
Elwood City v Somerton City

DIVISION 2 STH-EAST - RND 12

Dandenong Inter 1 - Clayton 3
Noble Park 0 - Brandon Park 5
Doveton 4 - Newborough/Yallourn 2
Monash University 2 - Heatherton United 5
Waverley Wanderers 3 - Braeside United 2
Ashburton 2 - Dingley City 3
Table - Waverley Wanderers 20, Clayton 18, Doveton 18, Heatherton United 14, Dingley City 13, Brandon Park 13, Newborough/Yallourn 12, Ashburton 10, Monash University 8, Noble Park 6, Dandenong Inter 5, Braeside United 4.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Saturday July 3
Dingley City v Waverley Wanderers
Braeside United v Monash University
Heatherton United v Doveton
Newborough/Yallourn v Noble Park
Clayton v Ashburton
Brandon Park v Dandenong Inter

DIVISION 3 NTH-WEST - RND 12

Whittlesea United 2 - Flemington Falcons 1
West Preston 1 - Northern United 5
Watsonia Heights 3 - Brimbank City 2
Brimbank 3 - La Trobe University 1
Darebin United 3 - Keilor United 1
North Reservoir 1 - North Glenroy 2
Table - North Glenroy 30, Whittlesea United 30, Keilor United 20, Brimbank 20, Darebin United 18, Brimbank City 17, La Trobe University 16, North Reservoir 14, Flemington Falcons 12, Northern United 11, Watsonia Heights 9, West Preston 6.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
North Glenroy v Darebin United
Keilor United v Brimbank
La Trobe University v Watsonia Heights
Brimbank City v West Preston
Flemington Falcons v North Reservoir
Northern United v Whittlesea United

DIVISION 3 STH-EAST - RND 12

Newport United 3 - Beaumaris 2
Rowville Eagles 2 - Ivanhoe United 1
Collingwood City 1 - Endeavour Hills 1
North Caulfield 2 - Noble Park United 4
Parkmore 1 - Thornbury United 1
Moreland United 0 - Old Camberwell Grammar 0
Table - Noble Park United 26, Moreland United 23, North Caulfield 22, Collingwood City 19, Endeavour Hills 18, Rowville Eagles 18, Thornbury United 18, Ivanhoe United 17, Old Camberwell Grammar 13, Beaumaris 8, Parkmore 7, Newport United 7.

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4
Old Camberwell Grammar v Parkmore
Thornbury United v North Caulfield
Noble Park United v Collingwood City
Endeavour Hills v Rowville Eagles
Beaumaris v Moreland United
Ivanhoe United v Newport United

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PREMIER LEAGUE



HAT-TRICK RELEGATES GEORGIES

SOUTH DANDENONG 4 SUNSHINE 2

By Kevin Christopher

Billy Wright was the hero for South Dandenong at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday afternoon when he notched a hat-trick from set pieces to virtually ensure bottom-placed Sunshine Georgies will be relegated at the end of the season.

After good early pressure from the home side, the visitors took an unlikely lead in the 18th minute when Steve Stojanovski had time and space to curl a 20 metre shot over the stranded Chris Roche.

Seven minutes before half-time, Wright, who was playing sweeper, curled a delightful right foot free kick around the wall and past the outstretched hand of Steve Wardle.

The Sunshine keeper was lucky to stay on the pitch just a minute later when he brought down Festim Zekirija in a clumsy fashion just outside the box, but referee Bruno D'Annunzio was content to only issue a yellow card, much to the disgust of the home team and their supporters.

Justice was seen to be done however, as Wright stepped up and produced a replica free kick to give Souths the lead for the first time.

Sunshine lifted after the break and looked to be working their way towards an equaliser, with both Alfonso Opazo and Franc Bot going close, but the Georgies hard work was undone in the 68th minute when Wardle received a back-pass and tried to dribble around the persistent Zekirija.

The young Souths striker dispossessed the embarrassed goalkeeper and slotted the ball into the empty net.

The visitors struck back immediately however, as Cesar Hermosilla latched on to a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area and chipped over Roche to reduce the deficit.

Opazo and Hermosilla continued to threaten the home team's goal but with nine minutes left on the clock, Wright completed his hat-trick with a penalty after Valiant Mucaj had been chopped down inside the box.

South: Roche, Wright, Rasimi, Tarevski, Gurpinar, Lumanovski (Kirichian), Mucaj (M.Memeti), V.Memeti, Van Egmond, Villani, Zekirija.

Georgies: Wardle, Krajacic, Bot, Rozanitis, Sacco, Allan (Mercuri), Kanesoulis, Elvin, Stojanovski, Opazo, Hermosilla (Schiafone).

Referee: Bruno D'Annunzio

Votes: 3- Wright (SD), 2- Van Egmond (SD), 1- Hermosilla (SG).

BENTLEIGH 3 ALTONA EAST 2

By Patrick Tomson

Bentleigh Greens continued its strong foray into the top half of the table with a clinical 3-2 victory on Sunday over Altona East.

Two late goals for Altona caused some anxious moments as the Phoenix finished the better of the two sides.

Questions will be asked as to why Altona's most influential player, Nick Papadopoulos, started the game on the bench. His inclusion in the second half turned his side around, scoring two valiant goals.

The action started as early as the 2nd minute, as Bentleigh's Stelios Drakos was presented with a golden opportunity in the six yard box but his header was miraculously saved by Sam Frangos, who had a superb game.

Frangos turned from hero to villain in the 33rd minute when his poor clearance found Juan Nilo who thanked the 'keeper for his gift and calmly

slotted away Bentleigh's first.

It was a deflection that presented Bentleigh with the chance to score their second goal, John Papettas made no mistake with a looping header flying over the 'keeper and into the back of the net.

With a two goal deficit, Altona brought on Papadopoulos in the 66th minute with almost an immediate effect.

In the 68th minute he latched on to a great ball 30 metres from goal and unleashed a thunderous drive which nestled into the top corner of the net leaving Bentleigh's 'keeper, Glenn Clarke, with no chance.

Bentleigh finally put the game beyond the reach of the Phoenix in the 80th minute. A threaded pass from Gerry McDonagh sent Nilo bound for goal. He made no mistake sliding the ball past the helpless Frangos.

Altona scored a consolation goal four minutes into stoppage time through Papadopoulos, however it was all too little too late.

Greens: Clarke, Karapatsos, Micheil, McDonagh, Constantinou, Drakos, Rossios, Pino (Kotsovolos), Papettas (Lenetis), Nilo, Mladenovic.

Phoenix: Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Kapulica, Dimitrelos, Schwal (L.Catalano), De-Amicis, T.Antoniadis, Groidis (Papadopoulos), Bartol, F.Catalano (Petrovski), Angelos.

Referee: Robert Ince

Votes: 3- Bartol (AE), 2- Papadopoulos (AE), 1- Nilo (BG).

ST ALBANS 4 WESTVALE 2

By Ivan Perkovic

Perfect conditions greeted this game between two local rivals as St Albans Saints and Westvale played out a typical derby that lacked nothing, with the Saints prevailing 4-2.

It all began in the 8th minute when Damien Vojtek, after good build-up play by Hrvoje Karl and the Saints midfield, blasted a left foot shot from an acute angle.

Just as the half was coming to close, so began the 'Harry' Karl show. In the 45th minute he ran on to a long through pass from Slavko Rados. Mile Medjedovic, who followed Karl's every step, couldn't stop him as he cut in and shot low to beat a casual Robert Acteson at his near post.

Westvale pulled a goal back as early as the 47th minute. Con Karasavidis received a short pass and with his back to goal, he turned on the spot and placed a shot in the opposite corner.

The Saints soon back to two goals ahead though. In the 51st, Karl earned a penalty after his shirt had been excessively tugged. The solid striker made no mistake converting the spot kick, sending the ball one way and the 'keeper the other.

Quickly enough, it was a hat-trick and the Saints' fourth. After a good interception by Krum Razov, Karl had put Vojtek through one-on-one with Acteson, unselfishly squaring the ball for an eager Karl to finish proceedings.

Westvale did score another consolation, this time in the 83rd. Tim Timotheou won the ball and squared for a grateful Angie Goutzioulis to shoot low and hard.

Saints: Vunderl, J.Cuze (Colina), Raspudic, Karl, K.Razov, S.Rados, Mikulic, Sianidis, Vojtek, I.Razov (Movric), Dragicovic (I.Rados).

Westvale: Acteson, Karasavidis (Bergam), Karkaletsis (Mavropoulos), Timotheou, Goutzioulis, Markovski, McAleer (Squillaciotti), Cvetkovski, Medjedovic, Culina.

Referee: Rick Artun

Votes: 3- Karl (StA), 2- Vojtek (StA), 1- Culina (W).

MAGIC ACE SINKS EAGLES

ALTONA MAGIC 1 SPRINGVALE W.E. 0

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Springvale White Eagles slipped deeper into relegation trouble on Sunday when they went down 0-1 at Altona Magic.

Ace Vasilevski's 65th minute goal proved to be the winner, after a fairly unadventurous performance from both sides.

The loss halts some of the momentum that Springvale had going but the Magic, themselves not clear of relegation, will welcome the three points.

Neither side managed to conjure up a genuine scoring chance until the 41st minute when Zoran Todorovski had a shot cleared off the line by Stefan Oter after White Eagles 'keeper Nick Kalamaris had bungled a back pass.

In the 65th minute, Springvale's failure to clear a corner proved to be their downfall. Defender Slave Bozinovski found himself with the ball at his feet and, from the edge of the box, shot powerfully through a sea of legs.

Kalamaris did extremely well to block the shot but could do nothing about Vasilevski's follow up.

Magic substitute Steve Markovski had the chance to double their advantage in the 78th minute, but despite having two go's at it, he couldn't force the ball past Kalamaris.

From then on Springvale never looked like equalising, lacking both the firepower and imagination to get them something out of the game.

Magic: McGrath, Bozinovski, Cergovski, Ristevski, Micevski, Vasilevski, Trajceviski (S.Markovski), Todorovski (Madarovski), Velkovski, Trifunov (Petrovski), Sapazovski.

White Eagles: Kalamaris, Mlinar, Oter, Poutakidis, Culibrk, Nikolic (O'Brian), Mandic, Gacovski, Rikanovic, Styczen (M.Mahajlovic), Z.Mihajlovic.

Referee: Gerry Connolly

Votes: 3- Vasilevski (AM), 2- Ristevski (AM), 1- Mlinar (SWE).

FAWKNER 0 PRESTON 2

By George Koukens

In almost perfect conditions, a 1000-strong crowd saw Preston Lions keep in the championship hunt with a 2-0 win at Fawkner.

Fawkner started the stronger of the two sides, but it was Preston who took the lead in the 25th minute.

Robert Dumeski, playing only his second senior game of the season, showed brilliant confidence when he neatly put away a superb long ball delivered by Sasa Ogdenovski.

The rest of the half saw the Blues try every trick in the book to equalise. Veteran ace Josip Biskic displayed visions of his former best when he squeezed through the offside trap to set up a one-on-one with Lapee Acevski but his shot came back off a post.

Santo Emmanuele had a similar misfortune minutes later when, in almost identical fashion, his attempt at an equaliser was foiled by the post.

Six minutes into the second half, the Lions delivered a deadly blow to the Blues when they made the most of a free kick given away by Tony Schipano for his tackle on Josip Kozic.

Danny Lisolaski centred the ball perfectly for Ivan Filipovski to add his name to the score sheet with the goal of the match.

Fawkner continued to bombard the Preston goal with Emmanuele and Peter Psarros providing the spark, but with so many attempts, still failed to find the target.

Blues: Gonzales, Tramontana, Gramaud, P.Ferrante, Schipano, V.Ferrante (De Santis), Bordignon, Biskic, Emmanuele, Collins, Psarros (Di Saurio).

Lions: Acevski, Slavski, Lisolaski, Filipovski (Talevski), Ogdenovski (Kovacic), Kozic, Spink, Burlak, Emovski, Smiris, Dumeski (Stojanovski).

Referee: Jim Oulians

Votes: 3- Emmanuele (FB), 2- Biskic (FB), 1- Psarros (FB).

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ROUND 19

Westvale 1 (Markovski) - Altona Magic 1 (Velkovski)
Bulleen Inter Kings 1 (Babic) - St Albans Saints 2 (K.Razov, Karl)

ROUND 20

South Dandenong 4 (Wright 3, Zekirija) - Sunshine Georgies 2 (Stojanovski, Hermosilla)
Bentleigh Greens 3 (Papettas, Nilo 2) - Altona East Phoenix 2 (Papadopoulos 2)
Fawkner Blues 0 - Preston Lions 2 (Dimeski, Smiris)
St Albans Saints 4 (Karl 3, Vojtek) - Westvale 2 (Karasavidis, Goutzioulis)
Altona Magic 1 (Vasilevski) - Springvale White Eagles 0
Green Gully v Port Melbourne and Melbourne Raiders v Bulleen played Monday night

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	19	13	4	2	49	21	43
Preston Lions	20	13	2	5	41	24	41
Green Gully Cavaliers	19	11	6	2	40	18	39
Bentleigh Greens	20	9	5	6	46	27	32
Fawkner Blues	20	9	3	8	30	28	30
Altona Magic	20	8	4	8	29	36	28
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	7	5	7	26	25	26
St Albans Saints	20	8	2	10	27	31	26
Altona East Phoenix	20	6	5	9	22	29	23
Melbourne Raiders	19	6	5	8	23	34	23
Springvale White Eagles	20	6	4	10	30	32	22
South Dandenong	20	5	5	10	34	46	20
Westvale	20	4	7	9	27	48	19
Sunshine Georgies	20	3	3	14	21	46	12

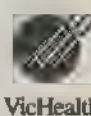
ROUND 21 FIXTURES

Sunday July 4

Sunshine Georgies v Altona Magic - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve
Springvale White Eagles v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre
Altona East Phoenix v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park
Port Melbourne Sharks v Fawkner Blues - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve
Preston Lions v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium

Monday July 5

Westvale v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 8.15pm at Knights Stadium
Bulleen Inter Kings v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club



QUEENSLAND

SYDNEY 2000, HERE I COME

Thirty years of playing football shows immense dedication in anyone's book, let it be in any sport or at any level.

That is what Peter Vogler has displayed since the age of four but he may just hang up his boots at the end of this season.

"I wake up on Sunday mornings excited because I know I have a game to play, I love the feeling"

As the Ipswich Knights' leading goalscorer, he is also poised to play for Australia at next years Olympics and if he makes the cut, it will be the third Olympics he has played in.

In 1988 he was competed in Seoul and he backed that up eight years later in 1996 as

he competed in Atlanta. Again he is in the Australian squad and in full training for Sydney 2000.

Now before all you diehard football fans go racing for the record books, you won't find the name Peter Vogler amongst any team line-up for the Olyroos or the Socceroos at any Olympics.

Peter Vogler has competed at the Olympics as a baseballer. Brian 'Chooky' Vogler who played in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics is his father

Vogler's career as a baseballer come footballer began at the age of four when he joined Ipswich football club, St Helens where he played for 20 years, mainly as a sweeper.

At the age of six he also began to play baseball with the Ipswich Musketeers.

His first crack at representative sport came in 1986 when he was selected in the Australian baseball team that met Chinese Taipei.

Just two years later, he earned his first Queensland cap in football, under coach Bruce Stowell, scoring another cap the following year.

Also in 1988, he signed with the Brisbane Bandits, an Australian Baseball League club that he played with for five years where he went to the 1998 Olympic games in Seoul, when Cuba boycotted the Olympics.

This allowed a pathway for the Australians to play in what was then, an Olympic demonstration sport.

The next year, Vogler signed with Coalstars Soccer Club as a senior and spent two seasons as a striker. After that he re-signed with St Helens, his former club.

Although Ipswich born and bred, a lucrative contract with the Gold Coast Cougars baseball team in 1994 was enough to entice Vogler and wife Leigh to move to the coast and continue playing baseball in the national league. But he continued to travel each week back to Ipswich, to play his much loved football.

The Atlanta Olympics was another milestone for the multi talented sportsman. It also gave him his second most treasured moment of his life.

To march in the opening ceremony before some 100,000 people is something he will never forget.

Brisbane City has kept alive its Queensland Premier League championship hopes by halting Gold Coast's dream run with a 3-1 win at Spencer Park on Sunday.

Brisbane City stayed within six points of the leaders, Rochdale Rovers,



Peter Vogler... a man of many trades

who downed Wynnum by a similar score on Saturday night while the shock result of the round came from previously bottom placed side, Toowoomba, who downed one-time premiership favourite Brisbane Lions 2-1 in a close match.

In a weekend marred by persistent rain, Bundaberg won a crucial match against Mt Gravatt 4-1 while the clash between Taringa and Ipswich Knights was abandoned 10 minutes into the game because of a waterlogged pitch.

Despite Gold Coast's defeat, their first in 14 matches, they remain in third placed on 31 points with Brisbane Lions one point adrift with Ipswich next on 28 points and Taringa in sixth place with 25 points but with two games in hand.

Considering the slippery conditions, both Brisbane City and Gold Coast put on a respectable show in front of a small crowd.

Brisbane City, who were missing four key players including goalkeeper Danny Duke, defenders Mark Battistin and Damon Voss and midfielder Cliff Tuck, found themselves with their backs to the walls trailing 1-nil after only 13 minutes.

A horrible mistake from a simple throw-in by defender Warren Cooley

led to the early Gold Coast goal.

Cooley's lethargic throw-in was intercepted easily by Gold Coast's Shane Smeltz's who ran 30 metres from the touchline towards goal where he rifled a shot past City's third string keeper Adam Taraborrelli.

Gold Coast narrowly missed the chance of extending their lead close to the half hour when Shane Stefanutto put Troy Greenwood away with a long ball.

Greenwood ran an angle at the City keeper before slicing his shot just wide of the far upright.

Gold Coast were in complete control in the first half and may have had claims for a penalty when Cooley appeared to bring down Gold Coast striker Peter Dwyer in the box, ten minutes from the break.

Brisbane City's halftime talk from coach Bob Hamilton had the desired affect when the homeside equalised five minutes after the resumption through striker Royce Brownlie.

Brownlie's goal came after sustained pressure from the kick-off which saw midfielder Nathan Carlross have two close attempts, his first in the 48th minute, when his shot was tipped wide by Gold Coast keeper Jamie Irwin, and his second, which came a minute later, which sailed just wide of the upright.

City almost scored straight from the kickoff after the equaliser when Brownlie intercepted a poor pass in midfield and ran 30 metres to see his shot skim the crossbar.

Irwin was in fine touch between the woodwork for Gold Coast especially in the 58th minute when he brilliant saved a shot from City's Alan Cameron.

However, Irwin was at fault for City's second goal when he misjudged a perfectly timed cross from Cameron which he failed to grab enabling an unmarked Brownlie to head home to give his side a 2-1 lead.

Former national leader striker Chris Slater made his return from a long injury layoff, coming on as a replacement in the 62nd minute.

Slater, renowned for his goal scoring prowess, was on the park for only 15 minutes when he grabbed Brisbane City's third, again with a simple header after a neat passage of play from the Brisbane City midfield.

The Brisbane City midfield played some clever one touch football across centre field before sending Chris Cosson away down the left flank with the Gold Coast down to 10-men, as Dwyer received treatment to a head gash on the sideline.

Cosson, who possesses a neat left foot, struck his cross perfectly for Slater who made no mistake with a header.

Irwin, who's only blemish in the match was his failure to prevent City's second goal, denied the homeside a fourth goal late in the game when Brownlie snapped a shot through a congested box which the Gold Coast keeper managed to block with a diving save low to his left.

ROUND 20

10-07	Bundaberg	v	Rochdale Rov	7.00pm
11-07	Ipswich Knights	v	Brisbane City	2.45pm
11-07	Gold Coast	v	Toowoomba Utd	2.45pm
11-07	Wynnum	v	Taringa Rovers	2.45pm
11-07	Brisbane Lions	v	Mt Gravatt	4.00pm

QUEENSLAND UPDATE

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Rochdale Rov	19	13	0	6	46	29	17	39
Brisbane City	19	10	3	6	37	24	13	33
Gold Coast	18	8	7	3	33	26	7	31
Brisbane Lions	19	9	3	7	37	31	6	30
Ipswich Knights	18	8	4	6	26	22	4	28
Taringa Rovers	17	7	4	6	27	19	8	25
Bundaberg Waves	19	6	4	9	30	31	-1	22
Wynnum	18	5	2	11	28	42	-14	17
Toowoomba Utd	19	4	5	10	18	39	-21	17
Mt Gravatt	18	4	4	10	26	45	-19	16

ROUND 19 SCORES

Brisbane City	.....3	Gold Coast	.....1
Toowoomba Utd	.....2	Brisbane Lions	.....1
Mt Gravatt	.....1	Bundaberg Waves	.....4
Rochdale Rov	.....3	Wynnum	.....1

Taringa Rovers v Ipswich Knights — Washed out

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
Rocklea Utd	17	11	3	3	52	25	27	36
Capalaba	16	10	1	5	30	19	11	31
Souths Utd	15	9	3	3	41	18	23	30
Inala City	15	7	2	6	29	36	-7	23
Slacks Creek	15	6	4	5	31	36	-7	22
Beenleigh	15	5	3	7	29	33	-4	18
Olympic Utd	16	6	0	10	28	32	-4	18
Redlands Utd	15	4	3	8	23	36	-13	15
Acacia Ridge	16	1	3	12	16	44	-28	6

ROUND 19 SCORES

Beenleigh	.....2	Rocklea Utd	.....2
Olympic Utd	.....2	Acacia Ridge	.....0
Slacks Creek	.....2	Capalaba	.....0

Redlands Utd v Inala City — game to be played on 3/3/99

Souths Utd - bye

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	P	A	D	Pts
North Star	15	10	2	3	40	20	20	32
Eastern Subs	16	9	5	2	35	20	15	32
Albany Creek	15	8	4	3	35	23	12	28
Pine Rivers Utd	16	8	3	5	27	17	10	27
Newmarket	15	7	2	6	25	24	1	23
Uni of Qld	17	7	2	8	30	33	-3	23
The Gap	15	4	1	10	25	40	-15	13
Grange Thistle	15	3	4	8	16	36	-20	13
Mitchelton	16	1	3	12	14	34	-20	6

ROUND 19 SCORES

Albany Creek	.....1	Pine Rivers Utd	.....0
Newmarket3	Uni of Qld1
Eastern Subs4	Mitchelton1
Grange Thistle1	The Gap0

North Star - bye



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By Graham Cooke

ANOTHER GLOOMY SEASON FOR THE 'LORDS OF MISRULE'

Queanbeyan City are in crisis — the team has reached the half-way stage of the ACT Premiership without picking up a point, the reserves are being beaten by double-figure scores virtually every week, and a club official has been suspended for fielding a banned player under someone else's name.

So, what else is new?

Sadly City have been the Lords of Misrule for as long as Canberra soccer followers can remember.

Every season brings extravagant promises of a new dawn, with hard-working committees, a stack of sponsors and money in the bank.

Almost always, and sometimes before the first ball is kicked, it seems to all unravel amid sackings, walk-outs and mutual recriminations.

Last season was typical. A high profile coach, Oscar Langone, was signed, a number of quality players were engaged, and opening results were encouraging.

But once again the old problems set in and the campaign ended with the Macedonian-backed club in their usual position near the foot of the table.

Yet there is another side of the coin. Despite the upheavals, the angry words and ill-discipline both on and off the field, reports of City's demise have always proved to be premature.

The club has been around for 35 years (their only major trophy, a top-four cup, was won in 1969) and always, despite

reversals and misfortunes which would have killed off less resilient outfits, their difficulties have never quite proved to be terminal.

This season the pattern has been followed. After a terrible start, attempts are being made to repair the damage.

Canberra Cosmos defender Danny Burt has been signed, and another Cosmos player, midfielder Nick Purdue, made his debut on Sunday; a former first team goalkeeper, Jovan Naumovski, has also been tempted out of retirement.

Coach Vic Trajanovski believes the club could win as many as five of their nine games in the second half of the season, which should see them off the foot of the table. "We need to get a settled team," he said.

"The problem is, if we keep losing then I must try different combinations, but with Danny and Nick in the team, I feel we will have a foundation on which to build.

"There is a great deal of enthusiasm for the club, there are people ready to put in money. We simply need to improve our on-field performances."

For a while in the game with Canberra Olympic recently things looked to be going City's way. After going 2-0 down they came back to draw 2-2 against opponents depleted after having had a player sent off.

But it was Olympic which finished the stronger and in the end Queanbeyan were still pointless and on the wrong end of a 6-2 result.

A former club official said many workers quit because of the in-fighting.

"I do not know how many times we had 20 apparently keen, dedicated people sign up at the annual meeting, only to find it down to about six by the time the season kicked off," he said.

"Everyone wants to have their say. There are always plenty of people in



Canberra Cosmos star, Danny Burt

charge who believe they can run the club better than those who are in charge.

"Then there are the parents who believe the club exists just to give their sons a game, regardless of how good or bad those sons are.

"My feeling is the club is coming to the end of the road. This could be its last season."

Maybe, but that has been said before. In the end, the close-knit Macedonian community of Queanbeyan and district have always come to the rescue. Football is too fundamental to their way of life to be dismissed.

Which makes it all the more frustrating that City cannot build on this foundation and become a force in the competition. No-one doubts their ability to survive, but unless they can put their affairs in order, success will always be a stranger.

INCONSISTENT OLYMPIC STRUGGLE

Inconsistent Canberra Olympic will be hoping the return of experienced defender Steve Vanzetti after a knee operation will revive their flagging fortunes.

Olympic were tipped as possible championship contenders at the start of the season, but despite a good showing in the Federation Cup they have struggled to find any form in league games.

In seventh place in the competition, they are nine points behind leaders Weston Creek and six away from the top four.

Many more dropped points and any realistic hopes of the Premiership will have vanished.

This is amazing for a team with players of the quality of Njegosh Popovich, Elliott Zwagobani and Pino Semnara — a team strong enough to have Geoff Howarth sitting on the bench.

Coach Baz Giampaolo is plainly frustrated when Olympic can beat Capital City Suns 4-1 one week then lose to Gungahlin Juventus by the same score the next.

"There seems to be a point in the game



Canberra Olympic's Steve Vanzetti recovering from a knee injury.

where, if everything is not quite going our way, we hit the self destruct button," he said.

"There's no logical explanation, our performance suddenly drops, 10 or 20 or as much as 30 per cent."

Vanzetti said his knee felt sound and he is ready to begin training. "It will be great to get back into contention for a first-team place," he said.

SHAW NOW A SUN

Coach Ian Shaw, who parted company with Canberra Deakin a few weeks into the season, is now working as assistant to Bill Dojcinoski at Capital City Suns.

Dojcinoski, who is also the founder and president of the Suns, says he would welcome the opportunity to step down from some of his duties in the near future.

"If Ian is happy with us, and the players are happy with him — and that appears to be the case — then I would be delighted to see him as head coach while I could get on with the administrative duties," he said.

Gus Cerro has not turned up for training after being dropped from the first team three weeks ago, but Shane Lyons is back after falling foul with visa requirements in his attempt to find a European club.

Capital City Suns' striker Tony Lemezzina is still good enough to play for the Canberra Cosmos in the Eriasson Cup, coach Ian Shaw said on Sunday.

Speaking after the 32-year-old had scored both his team's goals in the 2-1 ACT Premiership win over Belconnen United, Shaw said if Cosmos coach Tom Serrmann was looking for experienced players, he could do worse than run the rule over Lemezzina.

"I reckon Tony's got a season left at that level — young players could learn from him," Shaw said.

Lemezzina made his national league debut for the old Canberra City Olympians as a teenager in 1986 and later had spells for Melbourne Knights, Apia Leichhardt and the Cosmos, but in the last couple of seasons has confined himself to the ACT League.

There were few opportunities for Lemezzina or anyone else in a first half in which both teams sensed the danger of losing in one of the tightest ACT premierships in years.

United coach Lino Fiorese attempted to break the deadlock with a more adventurous formation, utilising Craig Unwin's attacking abilities, after the interval, and had immediate effect. Tai Tran was forced to clear off the line from Matt Whyte, then Marko Perinovic hit the side.

Belconnen grabbed the lead in the 54th minute when Whyte skilfully sold the dummy to a defender as a cross came over from Luke Larfield, and with the goal opened up, cracked the ball beyond the reach of Anthony Giannasca.

But United's forward push left them susceptible to the counter-punch, and there is still no one better at it in the ACT competition than Lemezzina on his day.

Within the space of four minutes he changed the game and the destination of the points. First he received the ball on the edge of the area, held it up long enough to put the

defence in two minds then stroked it home.

Lemezzina again scored, this time with more assistance from increasingly confident colleagues Ilija Prenzovski put in another in a succession of accurate crosses, Stan Blazevski, going one way, backheeled the ball for Lemezzina, going the other, and the striker finished against a defence apparently mesmerised by the manoeuvre.

Shaw said the game was no spectacle "but I believe we showed the greatest commitment".

Fiorese said it had been a bad month. "We are letting opposing teams score too many soft goals against us," he said.

"There is poor communication among the five players at the back and we are not marking properly.

"If the players are not prepared to perform out on the park I'll be giving someone else the opportunity.

"I might even be pulling my boots on again." Suns' third win in a row puts them into the top four United's second consecutive loss sees them slip to sixth place — such are the penalties for success and failure in a brutally tough competition which could still be won by up to seven of the 10 teams.

Monaro took over at the top after ending Gungahlin Juventus' six-game winning streak. Joe Campagna scored the only goal against his old club. The previous leaders, Canberra Deakin, going down to two goals scored from corners — the first an own goal and the other coming from defender Mladin Rogic.

Canberra Olympic continued to close the gap on the leading bunch with a 4-0 win over Burns Club. Geoff Howarth scored twice, bringing his total to five in two games, with further contributions from Njegosh Popovich and Peter Mazis.

Queanbeyan City remain pointless after losing 2-0 to the team directly above them in the table, University of

Canberra. A bitterly disappointed coach, Vic Trajanovski said several members of the team were still feeling the effects of a 21st birthday celebration the night before, negating the influence of new signing Nick Purdue.

"It makes you wonder if all the effort you put in is worthwhile," he said.

City now have the unenviable task of taking on table-topping Monaro next week in the Queanbeyan derby. The game will also be for the Mayor's Cup, which City holds.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE - SUNDAY JUNE 27

Division 1									
	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Belconnen United	1	1	0	0	0	2	20	12	22
Weston Creek R	2	1	0	0	0	2	24	14	22
Canberra Deakin	3	1	0	0	0	2	22	10	21
Capital City Suns	4	1	0	0	0	3	25	15	20
Gungahlin Juv	5	0	0	1	0	3	22	15	20
Belconnen United	6	0	0	0	0	7	30	14	19
Canberra Olympic	7	0	0	0	1	1	21	10	6
Burns Club	8	0	0	0	0	8	5	17	6
Uni of Canberra	9	0	0	0	0	1	16	29	8
Queanbeyan City	10	0	0	0	0	10	12	48	0

Under 23s: Belconnen United 0 Capital City Suns 1, Canberra Deakin 1 Weston Creek Royals 1, University of Canberra 19 Queanbeyan City 0, Canberra Olympic 0 Burns Club 0, Monaro 1 Gungahlin Juventus 4.

Youth League (Cosmos Division): Belconnen United 7 Capital City Suns 0, Canberra Deakin 3 Weston Creek Royals 4, University of Canberra 3 Queanbeyan City 0 (forfeit), Canberra Olympic 5 Burns Club 0, Monaro 1 Gungahlin Juventus 5.

Youth League (Rockets Division): Belconnen United 2 Belconnen United 6.

Division 2									
	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts	
ANU	1	4	0	0	0	24	4	34	
O'Connor Knights	2	3	0	0	0	15	19	21	19
Sabres	3	2	0	0	0	5	28	25	20
Cooma	4	2	0	0	0	1	5	19	21
Tuggeranong Utd	5	1	0	0	0	3	32	15	25
Belwest Foxes	6	1	0	0	0	5	28	25	20
Cooma	7	0	0	0	0	1	5	19	21
ANU	8	0	0	0	0	7	26	21	18
Sabres	9	0	0	0	0	1	5	19	21
White Eagles	10	0	0	0	0	7	18	20	13
Defence Academy	11	0	0	0	0	9	9	35	7

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE - SUNDAY, JULY 4

Queanbeyan City v Monaro	
Riverside	
Weston Creek Royals v Canberra Olympic	
Woden Park	
Burns Club v University of Canberra	
Greenway	
Capital City Suns v Canberra Deakin	
O'Connor	
Gungahlin Juventus v Belconnen United	
Jamison	

First Grade 2pm, Under 23s noon, Under 19s 10am

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY



Group Winners:

Group A:
USA

Group B:
Brazil

Group C:
Norway

Group D:
China



USA '99

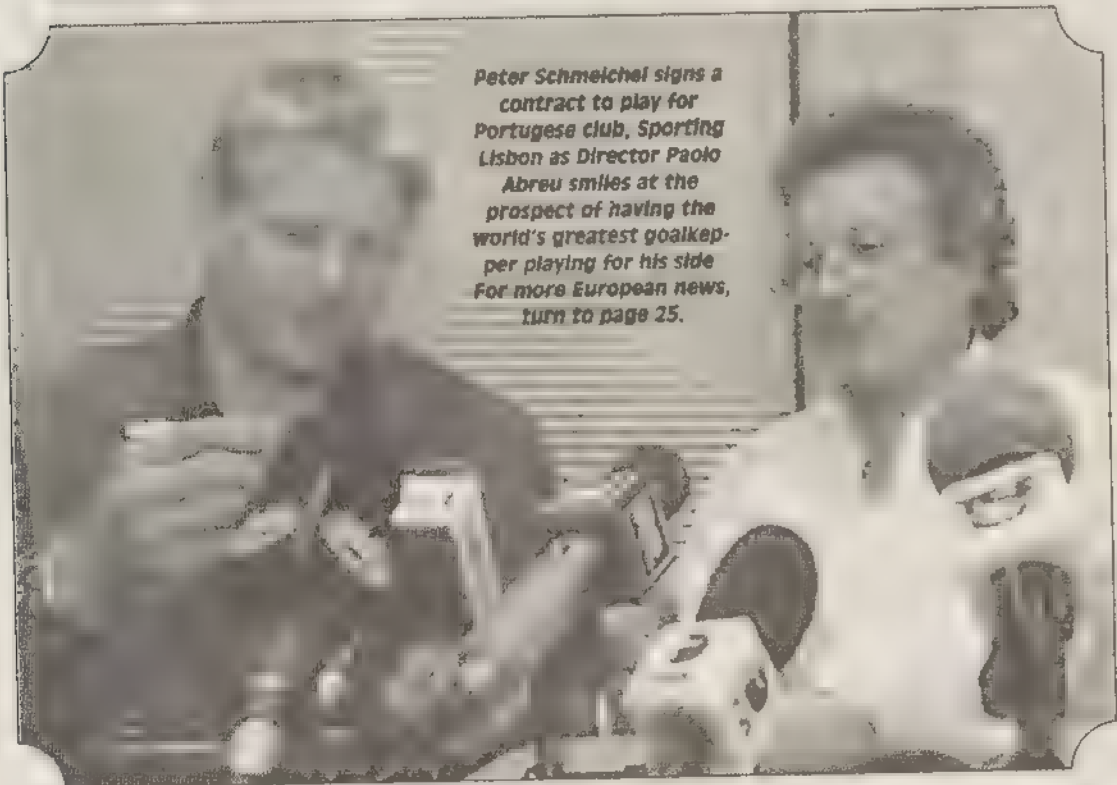


FIFA
Women's
World
Cup

THE WEEK IN THE GLOBAL GAME SPONSORED BY THE FOUR DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND ADELAIDE'S COAST FM SOCCER



We all love our foot-
ball but maybe Raul
loves it a bit more
than others.
For more news
from Europe, turn
to page 25.



Peter Schmeichel signs a
contract to play for
Portuguese club, Sporting
Lisbon as Director Paolo
Abreu smiles at the
prospect of having the
world's greatest goalkeep-
er playing for his side.
For more European news,
turn to page 25.



SOUTH AMERICA

Match called off because of some fancy FOOTWORK

The Paulista championship final between Corinthians and newly crowned South American champions Palmeiras was abandoned in the 76th minute following a massive brawl between players, fans and officials.

A 60,000 crowd at Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium witnessed the amazing scenes which led referee Paulo Cesar Oliveira to call off the second leg of the final, one of the top matches of the Brazilian season, with the score at 2-2.

Corinthians, 3-0 winners in the first leg, were 5-2 ahead on aggregate and virtually certain of the title.

The fight began when Corinthians striker Edilson, who had just equalized, received a pass in midfield and nonchalantly began juggling with the ball.

Three Palmeiras players, full-back Junior, striker Paulo Nunes and midfielder Zinho streamed in on Edilson, apparently incensed at the Corinthians player's cheek and nerve in the midst of a passionate derby.

The trio aimed kicks at Edilson, who kicked back before running for the safety of the dressing room.

Immediately, players, officials and substitutes from both sides joined in, aiming karate-style kicks and punches at each other. One of the most aggressive was Palmeiras striker Oseas, who was seen fighting with ball boys.

Armed riot police joined in along with hordes of cameramen, photographers and radio reporters, who attempted to interview players as they fought.

The fighting continued for around 10 minutes before referee Paulo Cesar Oliveira took the extraordinary step of calling off the match.

"Paulo Nunes celebrates goals by wearing silly masks but when I have a little joke, he can't take it," said Edilson.

With the 2-2 scoreline apparently standing as the result, Corinthians players collected a huge Paulista trophy and completed a lap of honour.

The Paulista (Sao Paulo state) championship is the biggest of the Brazilian regional tournaments, which are played in the first half of the season.

The eternal Palmeiras-Corinthians rivalry was fuelled in May when the two met in a Libertadores Cup quarterfinal. Palmeiras won on penalties but were accused of gloating afterwards by angry Corinthians.

Bad feeling continued with mutual provocation in the first leg when two Palmeiras players were sent off in the 3-0 loss.

"We apologize for everything that happened," said Palmeiras coach Luis Felipe Scolari, whose team won the South American Libertadores Cup this season.

"We can't have children seeing these pictures, nor people who have in football an idea of happiness."

"Nothing is going to take the shine off our victory," said Corinthians full-back Silvinho.



Rincon of Corinthians attacked by Palmeiras players later on take a little kick at Edilson, who had just equalized.

Edilson
kicked out
of team for using
his skills



Edilson, the man with all the wrong moves

JAPAN READY TO TAKE OVER THE COPA AMERICA

Japan's French coach Philippe Troussier is aiming to give Copa America organizers a shock — by bringing the South American soccer championship back to Asia.

Japan, Asian champions for the first and only time in 1992, will be competing as guests in the biennial tournament for the first time, and face Peru, Paraguay and Bolivia in Group A.

While acknowledging the strength of the opposition, Troussier is not ruling out a surprise or two from his team.

"For me, the Copa America is like the World Cup because all the teams are tough and all matches difficult," said the Frenchman.

"Maybe they invited Japan because they thought we'd be easy, so now I want to cause them a problem and win the Copa America. After our experience in Nigeria, who knows? It's a big mistake for Paraguay to invite Japan."

Troussier was referring to the FIFA World Youth Championship in Nigeria in April, when Japan's under-20s beat the likes of England, Mexico and Uruguay to reach the final, only to lose 4-0 to Spain.

In Paraguay, the 12 nations are drawn into three groups of four. The top two in each group, plus the best two third-placed teams, enter the quarterfinals.

Troussier believes the format leaves the door open for a shock.

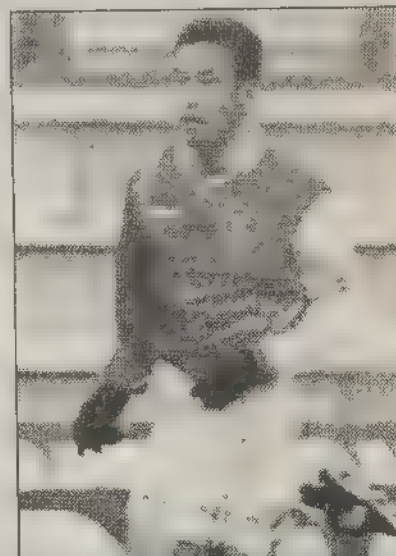
"We have a chance because the top two and maybe the third from our group go through to the second round. It's not a big wall, so I am optimistic."

"Once you get into the second round it's the quarterfinals and every game is 50-50, so sometimes you don't know."

Japan's players have left for South America on but Troussier stayed behind for a few more days to prepare his Olympic team for the second phase of Sydney qualifying games in Tokyo.

Since taking over as head coach last September, the 44-year-old Frenchman has been training the youth, Olympic and national teams.

In the four senior games Japan have played under Troussier, they have won only one, 1-0 against African champions Egypt in Osaka last October.



Nakata has been left at home to rest after a long season in Italy.

They failed to score in their next three games, all at home, against Brazil 2-0, Belgium 0-0 and Peru 0-0, and even the goal against Egypt was a disputed penalty converted by Masashi Nakayama.

Brazilian national coach, Wanderley Luxemburgo has called up Gremio striker Ronaldo to replace midfielder Edilson in the Brazilian Copa America squad after Edilson was thrown off the team for his actions in the Paulista final.

Ronaldo should not be confused with the other player of the same name, who plays for Italian giant Inter Milan and is also on the squad.

The 19-year-old Gremio player is known as Ronaldinho to avoid confusion — both players have similarly protruding teeth.

Luxemburgo deplored Edilson's behavior during the Sao Paulo Championship deciding match between Corinthians and Palmeiras. The player provoked fighting on and off the pitch.

"Edilson's attitude is unacceptable and I can not justify his selection," Luxemburgo said. "He must pay the price for his attitude."

"This type of behavior doesn't just provoke one's opponent but also the spectators and it is hard to control things once they get out of hand."

Luxemburgo, has also lost Palmeiras midfielder Cesar Sampaio and Vasco da Gama's Juninho from his squad through injury.

Marcos Paulo and Alex were called up to replace the two injured players.

The Brazilian squad for the Copa America is,
Goalkeepers: Carlos Germano (Vasco da Gama), Dida (Lugano/Swi)

Defenders: Cafu (Roma/Ita), Evanielson (Cruzeiro), Serginho (Sao Paulo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid/Spa), Joao Carlos (Cruzeiro), Antonio Carlos (Roma/Ita), Cesar (Portuguesa), Odvan (Vasco da Gama)

Midfielders: Vampeta (Corinthians), Ze Roberto, Emerson (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Flavio Conceicao (Deportivo La Coruna/Spa), Rivaldo (Barcelona/Spa), Leonardo (Milan/Ita), Marcos Paulo (Cruzeiro), Alex (Palmeiras)

Forwards: Amoroso (Parma/Ita), Christian (Internacional de Porto Alegre), Ronaldo (Inter Milan/Ita), Ronaldinho (Gremio)

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE WORLD CUP.



The Women's World Cup touches all the hot buttons that make American marketers salivate.

The host U.S. team is favored to win. Thirty-two matches are being played over three weeks at sites from New England to California. Every game is being shown nationally on TV.

The opening match between the United States and Denmark just outside New York drew the biggest crowd ever to attend a women's-only sporting event — a Giants Stadium sellout of 78,792 people.

The tournament is expected to attract more than 500,000 fans, the most ever for an all-women's team sports event.

But the buzz the Women's World Cup has generated on Madison Avenue seems quieter than the one the men's World Cup created five years ago when it was in the United States.

Consider McDonald's, one of 11 official sponsors of the women's tournament.

During the last two men's World Cups, the fast-food chain put the tournament logo on its food sacks and drink containers to remind customers of its role as an official sponsor.

Not this year. Company spokesman Brad Trask said the chain had a long-standing commitment to promote Walt Disney Co.'s animated "Tarzan" movie opening just as the Women's World Cup kicked off.

"Two restaurant-level promotions would have been impossible," he said.

Trask said McDonald's is relying mainly on the field-level billboards that each official sponsor gets at all the matches to promote its involvement. It hasn't bought any commercial time on the telecasts.

Coca-Cola, another official sponsor, is also relying on the exposure from the sideline signs and plans no additional advertising on the match telecasts.

That's a change from 1994 when it advertised on the men's World Cup telecasts and produced a two-hour special shown on the eve of the final.

"Emotionally, I want to tell you this is a great opportunity," said Lesa Ukman, editor of the IEG Sponsorship Report, which tracks sports sponsorships. "But the truth is it's soccer. ... You're just not going to make a splash here."

While soccer is enormously popular among youngsters, it is a long way from the mass U.S. appeal enjoyed by football, baseball and basketball. And organized women's soccer is not nearly as popular worldwide as men's soccer, which has been holding World Cup competition for more than 70 years.

"This is only the third Women's World Cup and we are still selling it to sponsors and fans," said Maria Messing, president of the event's organizing committee.

For ticket sales, the organizers initially went after the estimated 7.5 million girls who play soccer in the United States and their families.

In courting potential sponsors, Messing emphasized the type of people who would probably be watching from the stands or on television — "suburban families, well-educated and affluent for the most part and parents that care a lot about kids."

The 11 official tournament sponsors paid \$1 million to \$4 million for the designation — a fraction of the \$20 million to \$40 million for the men's World Cup.

The broadcast rights went to three networks owned by the Walt Disney Co. ABC carried the opening match and will broadcast the championship July 10 from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The other 30 matches are being carried by ESPN and ESPN2.

Some advertisers are using soccer themes

and active players.

Gatorade, for example, has an ad showing U.S. team superstar Mia Hamm outlasting Michael Jordan in a competition that includes fencing, running and martial arts.

Mattel has also featured Hamm in an ad for a Barbie doll dressed in a soccer uniform under license from the Women's World Cup.

Adidas shows some of the world's top players, like Kristine Lilly of the United States and Sun Wen of China, in ads that humorously suggest they showed a flair for the sport at a very early age.

"There from the start," is the theme.

Anheuser-Busch has an ad with U.S. player Julie Foudy unintentionally kicking a doctor against the wall when he checks her leg reflexes. Allstate Insurance has an ad with two teams of girls ages 5 to 8 playing soccer. "Here's to the women who play. This generation and the next," the ad says.

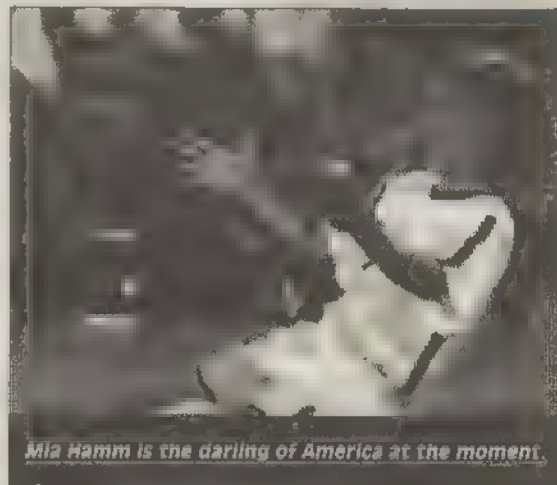
ESPN is trying to drum up interest in its telecasts of the tournament with an ad campaign featuring an odd blend of celebrities urging President Clinton to attend the final match. The luminaries include Olympic gold medal winners Mark Spitz and Tara



Lipinski, Watergate figure G. Gordon Liddy and Clinton political adviser James Carville.

The matches have not drawn ratings as high as the men's matches did in 1994, and ESPN programming executive Steve Risser doesn't expect them to be as high as five years ago.

"We know we are in a growth phase," he said.



SOCCERS GROWTH BEING FELT ALL OVER THE WORLD

Even though women's soccer is breaking new ground during this year's Women's World Cup, in many participating countries playing soccer is not exactly considered ladylike.

China's star player, Wen Sun, said girls in her country didn't really play soccer.

"The game of soccer is not very popular for women," said Wen.

"The activity for most girls is dancing and playing the piano."

Fortunately for Sulemana, her grandmother has accepted her soccer career, but she still worries.

"She hopes I stay healthy," said Sulemana.

The Black Queens tied the Waltzing Mathilda's, the Super Falcons beat North Korea and the Samba Queens waltzed over Mexico in "the group of death." This might sound like video game results, but all these titles are nicknames in the World Cup.

The Nigerian team is called the Super Falcons, while its men's team is known as the Super Eagles. The Black Queens are from Ghana and the Waltzing Mathilda's were named after the Australian song.

Brazil has no official nickname, but the media calls the Brazilians the Samba Queens, because they play the "samba soccer" for which Brazil is famous.

Group B, featuring Germany, Brazil, Italy and Mexico, was nicknamed "the group of death" because of the high quality teams in the draw.

The Women's World Cup is not just an event in itself, it is also the qualifying tournament for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The tournament is especially significant to Australia, hoping to make a strong showing before the Olympics. As the host country,

try, the Australian team automatically gets one of the eight spots, but the team wants to win a place on its own merits.

The eight quarterfinalists of the Women's World Cup will automatically advance to the Sydney Games if Australia is among them.

Should the Australian team fail to make the quarterfinals, the four winning quarterfinalists and only the best of the three losing quarterfinalists get a spot in Sydney.

For years, RFK Stadium in Washington was considered the unofficial home field of American soccer.

When the stadium wasn't awarded the championship match of the Women's World Cup, the locals felt snubbed.

"We felt Washington deserved the final," stadium manager Jim Dalrymple said. "To us, it made no sense to take those other games."

So RFK, a venue for the 1994 men's World Cup and host for numerous other international matches, pulled out of the tournament.

Another Washington-area venue, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium was awarded three first- and second-round doubleheaders.

Unlike RFK, Cooke Stadium had never staged a soccer game before a first-round doubleheader.

Also, RFK's wide field and partially enclosed design make it a perfect venue for soccer, while Cooke Stadium's surface is just barely wide enough to hold an official-sized field. Its plain, open structure with 80,000 seats usually requires at

least 60,000 people to create any kind of atmosphere.

Women's World Cup organizers say they didn't offer the championship game to RFK because it isn't big enough to hold the record crowds they began projecting following the huge turnouts for the medal games of the 1996 Olympics.

RFK has about 55,000 seats, while the Rose Bowl, host of the July 10 final, holds 86,000.

The Rose Bowl also was the site of the 1994 World Cup final.

The media is embracing the Women's World Cup. Accreditations for the tournament are up to 1,975, a number that far exceeds any other women's soccer event.

Of those accreditations, 900 went to reporters, 400 to photographers and 600 to

representatives from radio and television stations.

Of these journalists, 500 come from outside the United States, with China and Nigeria making up the largest overseas contingents.

For the opening game, the United States vs. Denmark at Giants Stadium 416 reporters, 124 photographers and 17 radio and television stations were accredited.

Interest in the U.S. team has increased dramatically since it won the 1991 Women's World Cup in China. On its return to the United States in '91, only one reporter met the players at the airport.

Another difference is the number of matches that will be televised. In 1995, only the six U.S. games were broadcast. This year, all the games will be televised. Seventy-four countries will broadcast the matches, with a possible television audience of 1 billion.



Memunatu Sulemana, the goalkeeper for Ghana's Black Queens, said her grandmother had misgivings about the sport.

"My grandmother didn't like me playing (soccer)," she said. "She said that it is a man's game."



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WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

USA SHOW NO MERCY

USA	7
NIGERIA	1

The United States emphatically displayed why it is one of the world's best women's soccer teams with a 7-1 rout of Nigeria before 65,080, the second straight sellout for the American squad in the Women's World Cup.

The fans at Soldier Field, many decked out in red, white and blue clothes, hairdos or body paint, were treated to an astounding show of attacking football.

The victory, following the Americans' 3-0 defeat of

Denmark in the opener, virtually assured a spot in the quarterfinals and a berth in the 2000 Olympics.

Nigeria, which won its first game in Group A and promised it would not be intimidated by the highly ranked American squad, actually scored first, in the second minute. Big mistake.

The Americans responded with two goals in 58 seconds, both involving their biggest star, Mia Hamm.

Before the first half was over, the United States added four more for a 6-1 lead, equaling the six goals the Americans scored in one half of an exhibition

GROUP 1

against Japan on April 29. It also tied a Women's World Cup record.

Hamm started the party with a free kick from near the left sideline that ricocheted in off defender Ifeanyichukwu Chiejine as Michelle Akers dived to get her right foot on it while falling. That made it 1-1 in the 19th minute.

Hamm's found the back of the net less than a minute later as she was inexplicably left alone on the right wing. Her rocket of a shot sailed over the right hand of goalkeeper Ann Chiejine.

As Nigeria's midfield continued pushing upfield, the Americans struck again. Tiffeny Milbrett easily beat Nigeria captain Florence Omaghemi on the right wing and centered, where Kristine Lilly's shot was blocked. But the ball bounced off Cindy Parlow directly to Milbrett, whose shot went in off Chiejine's hands.

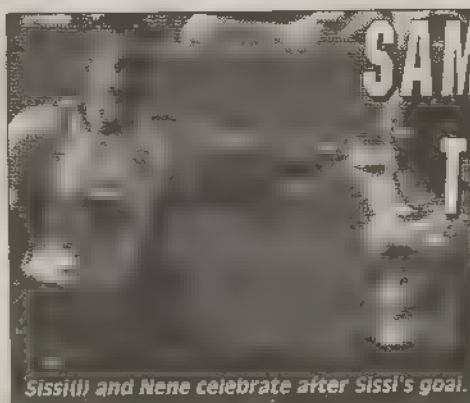
With three goals in four minutes, the United States could have relaxed. Instead, the hosts poured it on.

Hamm's free kick from 10 yards in front of her effort on the first goal was back-headed home by Lilly. Seven minutes later, Akers got her head on a cross by Julie Foudy as the defence stood and watched.

Parlow finished the onslaught with a header from Chastain set up by Milbrett's precise cross.

Milbrett added a late goal with a sliding left-footed poke on a gorgeous feed from Parlow. The seven goals tied a team record in the World Cup, set against Taiwan when the Americans won the championship in 1991.

Jo Song Ok scored one goal and assisted on another as North Korea beat Denmark, 3-1, in a Group A match at Civic Stadium.



Sissi and Nene celebrate after Sissi's goal.

BRAZIL	2
ITALY	0

Brazil was less than brilliant in advancing to the second round of the Women's World Cup with a 2-0 victory over Italy.

Lacking the crispness and finishing touch that is a Brazilian trademark, the South Americans got two goals from Sissi and some sterling saves by goalkeeper Maravilha.

It was enough to clinch a spot in the quarterfinals and, with it, a berth in the 2000 Olympics. China and Norway also have secured spots in the Sydney Games.

Just as in their opening rout of Mexico, the Brazilians started quickly. Sissi, who scored three times in the previous 7-1 victory, took a perfect pass from Nene and blasted a left-footed shot into the top of the net just two minutes in.

NORWAY	7
CANADA	1

Norway may lack the hype of the host country for the Women's World Cup, but the defending champion certainly does not lack the skill.

Ann Kristin Aarones' goal in the 36th minute triggered a run of six unanswered games as Norway demolished Canada, 7-1, in a Group C match at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, all but clinching a spot in the quarterfinals.

Norway defeated in Group C has played second fiddle to the host United States. But for the second straight game, Norway displayed a relentless offence that kept Canada in its own half of the pitch for seemingly the entire contest.

Canada pulled even in the 31st minute when striker Charmaine Hooper scrambled to a loose ball off a free kick by Andrea Neil and poked it past Norway goalkeeper Bente Nordby from six yards.

But that goal appeared to anger Norway, which quickly countered. Marianne Pettersen started the play just above the penalty area and passed to midfielder Hege Riise.

Riise moved the ball to the right flank, where Unni Lehn dribbled deep and sent a cross to Aarones, who nodded a header from six yards past helpless Canadian keeper Nicci Wright.

SAMBA QUEENS ON TOP OF ITALY

GROUP 2

The Brazilians continued to press the attack, but stalled midway through the first half as their passes went astray and their shots were well off target.

In the 33rd minute, with Brazil's frustration at its own sloppiness mounting, team captain Elaine tripped Patrizia Panico in the penalty area.

Antonella Carta took the penalty kick, but the Italian captain sent it right at Maravilha, who made a great save. Rita Guarino then headed the rebound over the net.

Maravilha twice collided with opponents in the rugged game, but both times the defence came to the rescue. And her teammates woke up in the second half to put away the Italians, who lost Carta to a head injury in a collision in the 58th minute.

Sissi got her second goal on a weak shot that fooled goalie Giorgia Brenzan, who was out of position for the twisting, slow shot.

Italy did find the net early in the second half, but Panico was ruled offside. The Italians didn't mount much of a threat the rest of the way and almost certainly will need to beat Mexico in its Group B finale to have a chance to move on.

GROUP 3

Pettersen, Riise, Lehn, Linda Medalen and Solveig Gulbrandsen also scored for Norway. They can wrap up first place in Group C with a win over Japan on Saturday at Chicago.

The Russians were the more aggressive side, but scored their first goal on a counterattack in the 29th minute. Midfielder Irina Grigorieva picked up a loose ball about 20 yards inside the Japan end.

She ran to just outside the penalty area and sent a pass to Larissa Savina, who beat her defender and curled a shot just inside the right post.

Letchova tallied twice in the second half along with defender Natalia Karasheva and substitute forward Natalia Barbachina.

Japan who rallied to draw with Canada in its first game, could not mount much of an attack and faces a seemingly impossible must-win situation against defending champion Norway to have any hope of advancing.

More importantly, Russia gained the inside track for a quarterfinal berth. A tie in its final first-round game against Canada will virtually assure Russia of advancing on the strength of goal differential.

GROUP 4

Sun Wen recorded a hat trick as China clinched a berth in the quarterfinals with a 7-0 rout of Ghana in a Group D match at the Civic Stadium.

CHINA	7
GHANA	0

The seven goals by China is the most it has scored in 13 World Cup games. Norway holds the record for most goals in a game with an 8-0 humbling of Nigeria in 1995.

The Chinese who lead the group with six points, need only a draw against Australia to clinch the group title outright.

Wen, who scored five goals in qualifying, got on the board just nine minutes after the opening whistle.

Wang Liping sent a longball that caught Ghana trying to play an offside trap. Wen walked in all alone and easily slipped the ball past goalkeeper Memunatu Sulemana.

Jin Yan extended the lead to 2-0 seven minutes later as she knocked home the rebound of a Wen shot.

Wen got her second goal in the 21st minute and completed the hat trick, the third of this competition, in the 54th minute.

Brazil's Sissi and Pretinha each scored three goals in the seven goal rout of Mexico.

Zhang Quying scored twice off the bench and Liu Yang added a marker in the final eight minutes.

Ghana again played shorthanded for a large portion of the match after Regina Ansah was shown a red card by referee Elke Guenther of Germany in the 53rd minute for bringing down Ouying when she broke in alone on goal.

The "African Queens" played without starting midfielder Barikisu Tetey-Quao, who was issued a red card in their 1-1 draw against Australia in the group opener.

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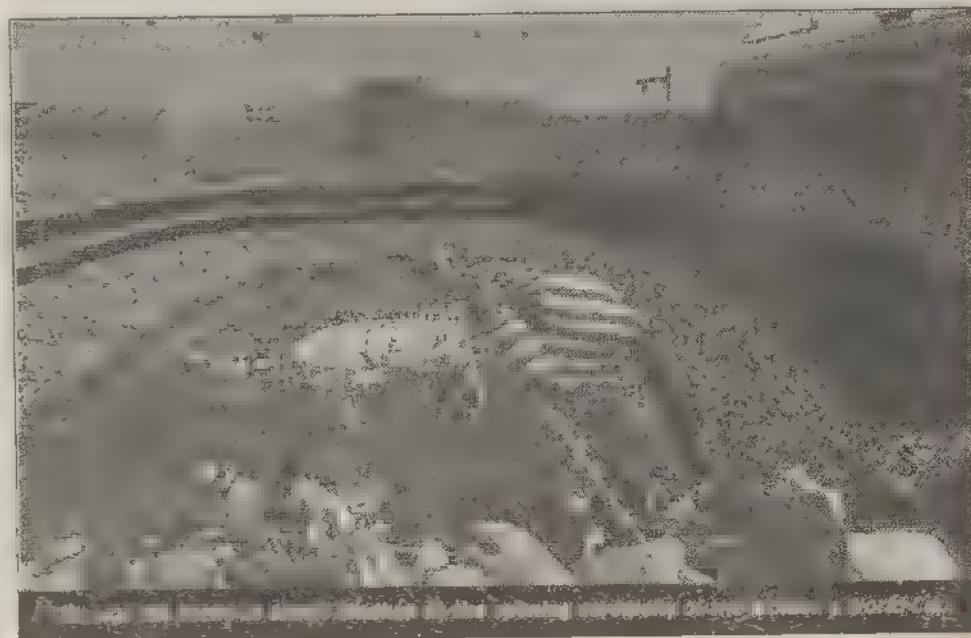
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WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

USA ON THEIR WAY TO QUARTERS

USA	3
NORTH KOREA	0

The USA has shown their dominance of the first round after crushing North Korea 3-0. Tisha Venturini scored twice as the United States broke down a stout North Korean defence for the three goal victory in the final preliminary round match in the Women's World Cup at Foxboro Stadium.

Team USA finished with three wins in Group A and moves on to the quarterfinals on Thursday against Germany in Ralston, Maryland.

The North Koreans needed to win to advance, but played in a defensive posture, having 10 players back and hoping their strikers could make something on the counterattack.

The game was scoreless until the 56th minute until Julie Foudy, who came on as a replacement at the start of the second half, side-footed a pass to Shannon MacMillan just outside the penalty area and MacMillan took three steps before firing a shot that came off the left post and settled into the net.

The goal was the 20th of MacMillan's international career.



Omegbemi of Nigeria and Krogh of Denmark go for the ball.

Venturini, seeing her first action in the World Cup, scored twice from headers. Her first came on a head-long dive in the 68th minute off a feed from Foudy.

Venturini collected her fifth career goal in three Cups seven minutes later from close range. She punctuated the celebration by doing a somersault.

Goalkeeper Briana Scurry made five saves, including a pair in sequence in the 69th minute, for her 53rd career shutout.

Nigeria did its part. And have qualify after the United States proves to be a gracious host in by beating North Korea by 3-0.

Mercy Akide and Nkiru Okosieme scored goals as the "Super Falcons" staked their claim for a berth in the next round with a 2-0 victory over Denmark in the final Group A match.

Nigeria has six points sitting behind America with nine.

Nigeria were in control for the whole of the

match and they are now confident that they can go all the way.

GROUP 1

NORWAY TO SLICK

NORWAY	4
JAPAN	0

Norway lost captain Linda Medalen to a broken nose early in the match but that didn't slow the defending champions one bit.

The Norwegians scored three first-half goals and rolled to a 4-0 victory over Japan to stay unbeaten through three games of the Women's World Cup.

Unni Lehn set up two and was responsible for Norway's second goal when her shot went off Japan's Hiromi Isozaki and into the net.

To celebrate the victory, Norway's players raced around the soggy turf, doing belly flops and bowing for the fans who were left at rainy Soldier Field for the doubleheader crowd of 34,256.

Norway will face Sweden, a 2-0 winner over Ghana in the first match of the doubleheader, in Wednesday's quarterfinals at San Jose, California.

Norway got started early as Hege Riise scored from the penalty spot in the eighth minute after teammate Monica Knudsen was taken down by Isozaki.

Two minutes later, Medalen, once a big-time scorer who is now a tough defender, had to leave the game after knocking heads with a Japanese player as they positioned for a header.

It was 2-0 when Lehn's shot from the right side went off Isozaki and deflected into the goal in the 26th minute. The lead increased when Lehn lobbed a shot into the box where Ann Kristin Aarones stopped the ball, let it drop and then beat goalie Nozomi Yamago in the 36th minute.

Dagny Mellgren's header from Lehn's pass gave Norway a 4-0 lead in the 61st minute.

Russia moved into the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup after getting an early second-half goal from Irina Grigorieva and two more later from Elena Fomina to beat Canada 4-1 in the final group match.

Russia finished with six points in Group C and will face China in San Jose, California, on Wednesday.

The victory also almost assured Russia of a berth in next year's Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Russia's goals came after it appeared to be playing for a draw, which would have all but guaranteed it a place in the quarters.

Canada dominated possession throughout the first half, creating several chances but few of them of any quality.

SWEDEN	2
GHANA	0

Victoria Svensson scored twice in the second half and Sweden earned a spot in the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup by beating Ghana 2-0.

Svensson scored with a header in the 58th minute, taking Malin Moström's crossing pass from the right corner and beating goalkeeper Memunatu Sulemana to put Sweden ahead 1-0.

The score came with Ghana one player down as defender Patience Sackey nursed an injury on the far sideline.

Ghana, in its first World Cup, just missed tying the game in the 86th minute. As Swedish goalie Ulrika Karlsson tried to clear after a pass back from teammate Asa Lonnqvist, a sliding Elizabeth Baidu of Ghana blocked her kick and the ball deflected off the crossbar.

With the Black Queens stunned by their near-miss, Svensson raced to the other end, took a pass from Malin Gustafsson and slotted home her second goal to make it 2-0.

The final minutes were then played in a driving rain as a thunderstorm soaked Soldier Field.

Following Svensson's first goal, Sweden missed a chance for a two-goal lead after Stella Quartey was called for a foul against on Svensson in the penalty area.

The Swedes were awarded a penalty kick, but Sulemana miraculously stopped the penalty shot by Malin Andersson, as well as a quick rebound attempt

GROUP 3

Russia played with nine women behind the ball to thwart the Canadians, leaving Natalya Barbachina and Olga Letuchova alone up front to provide the attack.

With little support from their midfielders, Russia's attacking pair managed only one quality chance, that

which

Letuchova's flick-on header from six metres off a shot from Grigorieva outside the box was grabbed by Canadian keeper Nicci Wright in the 43rd minute.

But in the second half, an invigorated Russia pushed from the kickoff Barbachina was blocked by Wright inside the 6-yard box in the

47th minute, and seven minutes later, Grigorieva casually dribbled in from midfield and blasted a 25-meter rocket just under the crossbar.

Canada coach Neil Turnbull reacted quickly by inserting extra forward Silvana Burtini for Mary Beth Bowie in the 55th, and it produced two quick chances. But in the 66th, second-half substitute Fomina generated an almost exact copy of Grigorieva's goal, blasting another shot from 25 meters, this time just inside the right post.

Realizing its Olympic hopes were fading, Canada reasserted itself and pressured the Russian goal. Charmaine Hooper finally gave the North Americans hope with a header from six meters inside the left post in the 76th, but Fomina ended any chance of a Canadian rally with four minutes remaining.

Letuchova sent a low cross into the path of Fomina speeding down the middle of the penalty area, and the 20-year-old midfielder touched it past Wright to put the game out of reach.

Olga Karasheva added a goal in the first minute of injury time to finish off the Canadians.

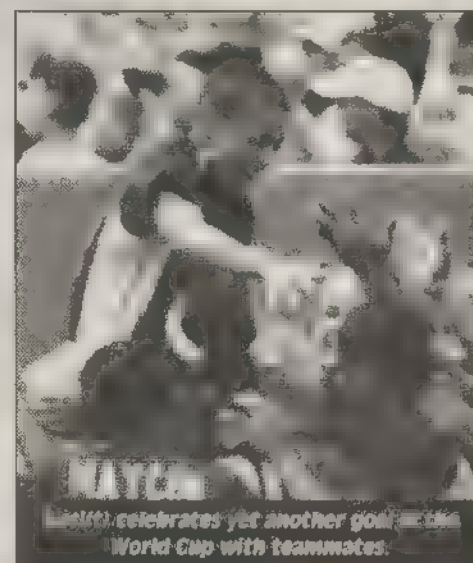
GROUP 4

seconds later by Therese Lundin.

Sweden, a loser in the World Cup quarters four years ago, is undefeated in Group D.

Sweden midfielder Hanna Ljungberg, who scored two goals in an earlier victory over Australia, left in the sixth minute with a right knee injury. She was replaced by Lundin.

Ghana played without two starters. Defender Regina Ansah who had been red carded in the previous game against China and defender Rita Yeboah had been given two yellow cards in Ghana's previous two games.



Malin Moström celebrates yet another goal in the World Cup with teammates.

Mexico played its best game of the tournament, even outshooting Italy 8-7 in the first half and taking six corner kicks while conceding none.

The Mexicans managed one shot, that in the 90th minute, in their prior match against Germany, and the team was outscored 15-1 in their three matches.

Italy took control of play late in the first half preceeding Panico's goal. The European side also controlled the second half in an uninspired game.

BRAZIL	3
GERMANY	3

The samba song Brazil will play will be one of celebration after having avoided the Americans in the quarterfinals.

Macon's goal in the fourth minute of injury time lifted Brazil to draw 3-3 with Germany at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, giving the South American's the Group B title, and perhaps, an easier road to the Women's World Cup finals.

Brazil desperately pressed for the equaliser over the final 15 minutes of regulation and injury time before finally being rewarded.

A foul deep in Germany's territory gave Brazil a free kick on the right side of the pitch. Sissi, who scored a first-half goal and terrorized German goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg on multiple occasions, hooked the kick into the goal area.

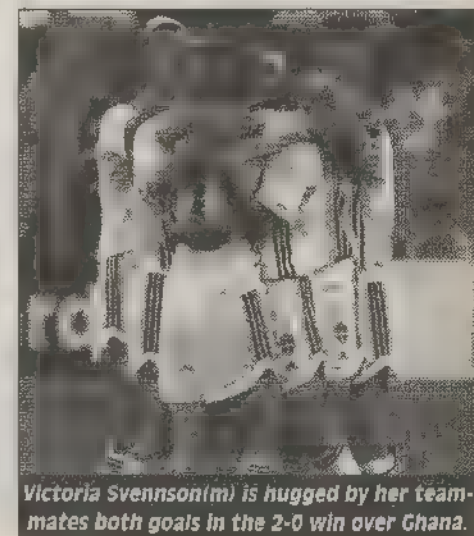
The ball rattled around before finding its way to Maicon, who hammered a 15-yard shot that Rottenberg could only watch sail into the net.

The goal negated a second-half comeback by Germany which got its goals from Bettina Wiegmann and Stephanie Jones to take a 3-2 lead in the 58th minute.

Despite clinching a quarterfinal berth, the European squad now has a daunting task in trying to eliminate the host country in the knockout round.

Katia Di Silva also scored for Brazil, which will be making its first quarterfinal appearance after being eliminated in group play in both the 1991 and 1995 Women's World Cup.

Italy ended Mexico's disastrous World Cup tournament as Patricia Panico scored her second goal of the tournament in a 2-0 victory in a game between teams



Victoria Svensson (m) is hugged by her teammates both goals in the 2-0 win over Ghana.

ITALY

IN BRIEF

Christian Vieri, the world's most expensive footballer, has undergone a mandatory medical check-up in Milan, the final step of his \$50 million move from Lazio to Inter Milan for next season's Italian championship.

The 25-year-old forward, who spent 10 of his formative years in Sydney before returning to fame and fortune in Europe, confirmed his intention to stay in Milan for the five years of his contract.

"Milan is a big and beautiful city and I'm changing once again, but this time I intend to stay because I want to settle and to win something with Inter," said Vieri.

"It's the umpteenth time I've moved, but this time I really hope to stick around for awhile," said Vieri, who joined his ninth club in eight seasons.

Inter bosses have pushed back the date for the official presentation of their new star.

After his medical, Vieri will join his friend Filippo Inzaghi of Italian Serie A side Juventus for holidays.

Vieri's record transfer fee sparked controversy with the Vatican's daily newspaper saying it was "an offence against poor people" and that no-one was worth that much money.

At Inter, he'll pair up front with Ronaldo, a two-time FIFA World Player of the Year.

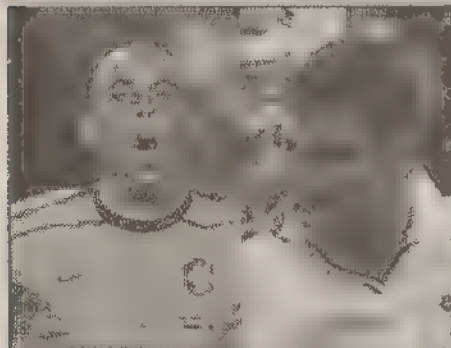
"We'll make a great tandem," Vieri said, "although it will take us some time [to gel], of course."

Ronaldo paired with Vieri is a managers' dream and Inter now has two of the best strikers who are currently running around.

Ronaldo dazzled for Barcelona but since moving to Inter, he has not shown the form that brought him the 'World's Best Footballer' title.

Then there was the World Cup and the fiasco that occurred before the final and rumours that the young man was suffering from stress.

With the arrival of Vieri, Italy's hero in the past year, the pressure on Ronaldo to score will be less, as long as the two can build up a deadly partnership, one which we would all like to see.



Ronaldo and Vieri... It doesn't get much harder for defenders when these two fire.

Del Piero set to stay in Turin.



Bergomi has given great service to Inter over his 20 years at the Italian giants.

Inter Milan has said goodbye to captain and veteran Italy defender Giuseppe Bergomi, after 22 years at the club.

"You all know that at Inter it's over for me after so many years," 36-year-old Bergomi said.

"I have spent more than half my life here. Inter has given me a lot, prestige, fame, money, and I recognize this and I thank everyone," he said.

"I don't yet have any clear ideas for my future. If I had had more time I would have got myself organized, but I was only told two weeks ago. But I do still see myself on the pitch and not behind a desk."

He is taking time off to consider "various offers."

Bergomi played for Italy during last year's World Cup and although the 36-year-old is determined to continue on, it is only a matter of time until he retires, this after a life in soccer that has taken him to the pinnacle that the game has to offer.

Alessandro Del Piero's contract with Serie A outfit Juventus is set to be extended, Juventus club official Luciano Moggi told media.

Moggi said he would meet the star international striker and expected Del Piero would finally put pen to paper in a matter which has dragged on for a year.

Juventus have a reputation for off-loading top players often still in their prime for much younger recruits.

This news, however, looks set to quell the will-he, won't-he rumours rife in the Italian press.

This is some good news for the club who earlier on in the week lost French World Cup winner Didier Deschamps to English club Chelsea.

Juventus were also in danger of losing Zinedine Zidane

earlier in the year after he wanted to move to Spain for personal reasons.

World player of the year Zinedine Zidane will stay at Juventus next season.

The playmaker, French but of Algerian origin, made his plans clear at a press conference near his childhood home just north of Marseille.

"I am staying at Juventus for the moment despite all the offers," said Zidane, who is reportedly still being pursued by Real Madrid and whose wife is Spanish.

Zidane added playing in Spain was a long-term goal and admitted he had spoken too quickly earlier this year when Italian press interpreted his words as meaning his leaving was imminent.

Pedrag Mijatovic, who scored the winning goal for Real Madrid in the 1998 European Cup final, and Enrico Chiesa have wrapped up transfers to Fiorentina.

Oliseh moves to Turin not Rome

Ajax Amsterdam's Nigerian international midfielder Sunday Oliseh confirmed he had chosen to join Juventus rather than AS Roma.

Oliseh denied claims by Roma president Franco Sensi that he had given a verbal commitment to join the capital outfit.

Oliseh told Radio Radio: "I chose Juventus because for me it is the best solution but I can not tell you the exact reasons at the moment."

Referring to Sensi's claims that the Bianconeri had gazumped Roma, Oliseh commented: "When I give my word I keep it. I simply told him that I needed a bit of time to reflect. No one can decide where I should go without my agreement."



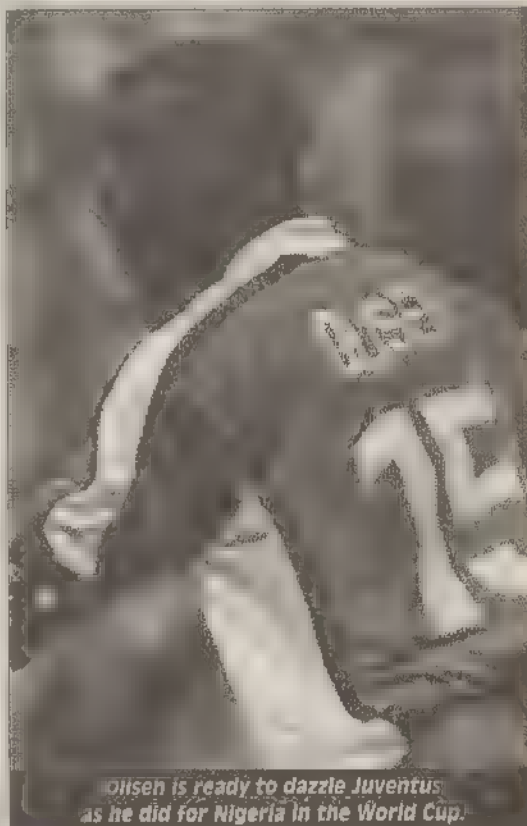
Del Piero seems certain to stay at Juve.

Yugoslav striker Mijatovic has left Real Madrid for the Italian club on a three-year contract worth \$1.6 million each season, with a transfer fee of \$8.1 million for Real.

"I'm here to win, I'd like to play at No. 8, it's always brought me luck and I wouldn't like to give up on that at Fiorentina. Of course, that's if everyone is OK with the idea."

"I was lucky when I scored that final goal in the '97-98 (European Cup) Champions' League, a historic goal for Real Madrid, and I hope to be able to repeat that on several occasions," he said.

Forward Chiesa has signed from Parma on a four-year contract for \$2.1 million each season, with a transfer fee of around \$14 million.



Oliseh is ready to dazzle Juventus as he did for Nigeria in the World Cup.



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EUROPE

Real finish second as Barca end with a loss

Real Madrid has clinched second place in the Spanish first division thanks to a 3-1 win at home to Deportivo Coruna and a surprise 3-0 victory for Valencia over Mallorca.

Real, needing a victory plus a helping hand in Mestalla to take the runners-up spot behind champions Barcelona, completed their own mission with ease, two goals from Raul Gonzalez and a third from Fernando Morientes easing them past 10-man Deportivo.

And they were duly given the boost they needed from Valencia, who stormed to a 3-0 win at home to Mallorca — a result which made both sides certain of places in the qualifying stages of the Champions League.

In the final standings, Barcelona, beaten 2-0 by Real Zaragoza on the last day finished top on 79 points. Real Madrid were second on 68, Mallorca third on 66 and Valencia fourth on 65.

The result ensured a successful end to the season for John Toshack, who took over at Real in February with the side struggling in sixth place.

The Welshman, who has had his fair share of criticism since taking over from Dutchman Guus Hiddink, took the opportunity to look forward to a new start next season.

He said, "The most important thing is that we've claimed second spot and a place in the Champions League. That means we've got more time to prepare for the new campaign."

"We've had a lot of problems at this club of late and the atmosphere has been difficult."

"But when I came here my main objective was to win second place in the table and now we've achieved that."

The reason they did was down to more than a little good fortune at home and in Valencia.

At the Bernabeu their task was helped enormously by the controversial sending-off of Deportivo defender Gabriel Schurrer after 24 minutes for pulling back Predrag Mijatovic.

The decision was a huge setback for Deportivo, themselves with Champions League aspirations going into the game.

Three goals in the space of seven minutes either side of

Mallorca, who turned in their worst defensive performance of the season as they conceded three terrible goals.

A Marcelino Elena own goal on 14 minutes gifted Valencia the start they needed and Claudio Rameri's side made certain of victory with two more scrappy goals from Gaizka Mendieta and Adrian Ilie.



Brazilian Rivaldo of champions elect, Barcelona nets away from Real Zaragoza's Filipe.

Celta Vigo, beaten 1-0 at home by Atletico Madrid, and Deportivo were the unlucky sides, who finished fifth and sixth respectively and had to settle for UEFA Cup places.

At the bottom of the table Alaves ensured salvation with a 2-1 win at home to Real Sociedad.

Extremadura and Villarreal, who drew 2-2, will now contest the promotion-relegation play-offs with Sevilla and Rayo Vallecano from the second division. Salamanca and Tenerife were already relegated.

Spanish First-Division outfit Real Betis has appointed Argentine Carlos Griguol as its new coach replacing former national boss Javier Clemente, who was sacked following a disappointing season.

The 64-year-old Argentine, who had spells at Rosario, Gimnasia y Esgrima and River Plate, was chosen after the Spanish Football Federation rejected Betis' first choice Griguol's compatriot Americo Gallego.

Griguol, affectionately known as "The Old Man," had previously been linked with replacing compatriot Hector Cuper at Real Mallorca, who is expected to move to Valencia.

But the Cup Winners Cup finalists finally plumped for another Argentinian, Roberto Gomez, earlier this month.

Under Clemente, who has had a miserable year having been sacked from the Spanish post when results failed to pick up following their first round exit at the World Cup finals, Betis finished a lowly 11th with its Brazilian import, Denilson, failing to justify his multi-million dollar price tag.

Numancia, newly promoted to the top flight of Spanish soccer for the first time, has appointed ex-Spanish international Andoni Goikoetxea as coach.

Goikoetxea was at second-division Compostela last season, and Numancia will be the first time he has coached a first-division club. The former midfielder won 39 Spanish caps in the 1980s and played in the 1986 World Cup.

Goikoetxea has yet to make a decision on whether he will continue with the Numancia policy of using only Spanish players.

Meanwhile, Numancia's former coach, Miguel Angel Lotina, has moved to second division Osasuna and Valladolid have appointed Gregorio Manzano as their coach.

Manzano, 44, joins from second division Toledo, replacing veteran Croat Sergio Kresic, who has moved to second-division Las Palmas.

LOTHAR OFF TO THE BIG APPLE

Bayern Munich star Lothar Matthaeus has ended weeks of speculation by announcing he will play for Major League Soccer's New York MetroStars next season.

Matthaeus, 38, a popular figure in German soccer, said he will play for Munich next season until the Bundesliga's winter break, then join the American league when its season begins.

An MLS spokesman denied a deal was in the works.

"We are not in active discussions with Lothar Matthaeus to play in Major League Soccer," Todd Durbin, the league's vice president of player personnel, said.

"My plan is to quit in winter. In January, take vacation. In February, train with Munich."

And in March, the season in the United States begins," Matthaeus told the Bild daily.

German reports said Matthaeus has signed a contract with the MetroStars — leaving only the date he will join the club open — and will receive \$1 million a

year. The team's coach, Bora Milutinovic, is a personal friend.

Matthaeus starred for Germany's 1990 team



that won the World Cup. While past his prime, he is still a key player on the national team and the country's premier club, Bayern Munich.

FRENCH EXPECT TO MAKE HUGE PROFITS

World Cup profits of almost 500 million francs or \$79 million, before tax, are expected to be announced in September following a meeting by organizers of France 98, the most successful World Cup in history to date.

In the next few weeks, the French football federation (FFF) president Claude Simonet and prime minister Lionel Jospin are set to sign a document outlining the details of how the money will be shared out.

The profits from the World Cup were enhanced with the host nations amazing run through the competition as they won the tournament as hosts.

This comes as a major boost for the FFF as the domestic league attempts to build itself into becoming one of the strongest leagues in the world.

The French league is still considered as weaker compared to Italy, England and Germany, and the reason for this has been the mass offload of French

players who now dominate many of the best clubs in the World such as World Cup winners, Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly both of Chelsea and Zinedine Zidane of Juventus just to name a few.

This problem has been escalated by the lack of quality footballers being brought to the French league.

This trend has not been compensated as more players are leaving the French league and less top quality players are moving to the nation because of the quality of the league compared to other nations.

Many big named players though are now starting to move to start a life in France including Argentinian Marcelo Gallardo, who this week signed with Monaco.

The last World Cup was the most successful in history in both revenue and television viewership, all of which is helping the FFF and football in France which until the beginning of the World Cup,

lagged behind rugby union and tennis as the top sports in France.



John Toshack has performed a mini miracle at Real Madrid finishing second in the league.

half-time, the first two expert finishes from Raul — who finished the season as top scorer with 25 goals — and a third from Morientes, consigned Deportivo to defeat, despite a consolation goal for Turu Flores.

Real were also helped by a nervous display from

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

IN BRIEF

Shirts, soccer balls and even a piece of grass from the Stade de France stadium where France won last year's World Cup go on sale next week to help a world crusade against anti-personnel mines.

The auction in Paris on June 29 sponsored by the French Red Cross will include a collection of memorabilia belonging to the 22 members of the France World Cup squad, including their T-shirts.

Also on sale to raise funds to combat mines from Angola to Kosovo will be works of art offered by collectors, and jewelry and accessories from top fashion houses such as Chanel and Jean-Paul Gaultier, the Red Cross said.

Dutch defender Frank Verlaat has returned to Ajax Amsterdam from German club VfB Stuttgart on a four-year contract.

Verlaat, 31, has played only once for the national side but was a member of the Dutch squad which travelled to Brazil earlier this month.

Ajax said they would pay Stuttgart an unspecified transfer fee as Verlaat's contract with the German club had not yet expired.

Verlaat began his professional career at Ajax, playing for them for three seasons before leaving for Swiss club Lausanne. He has also played for French club Auxerre.

Verlaat is the third former Ajax player to return to the fold, following goalkeeper Stanley Menzo and midfielder Aron Winter.

Coach Jan Wouters has also attracted Danish midfielder Brian Laudrup in an effort to bring experience to his fragmented side. All four players are in their 30s.

Malloca striker Dani Garera has joined Spanish champions Barcelona, signing a six-year contract.

The move comes just four days after Barcelona sold Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson to Olympique Lyon for \$20 million, a French record.

Dani, a Spanish international, scored 12 league goals last season in a Mallorca campaign that saw them finish third in the league and clinch a place in the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

Dani is the first Spanish arrival at Barcelona since Luis Enrique Martinez in the summer of 1996.

In the two years that Louis van Gaal has been coach, one of the main criticisms levelled by fans is that he has avoided buying domestic players. Until Dani's move, Van Gaal had exclusively signed foreign players, 12 in total.

However, the Dutchman looks as if he will soon be shedding Nigerian international defender Gbenga Okunowo.

Spanish media reports suggest Okunowo could be on his way to join German coach Jupp Heynckes at Portuguese club Benfica.

Werder Bremen coach Willy Lemke has resigned from the club - just over a week after guiding it to success in the German Cup, to become minister of education in the local government.

The 52-year-old, who as a player with Bremen won two German Cups, two league titles and the 1992 Cup Winners Cup, said he was looking forward to the new challenge, which had been proposed to him by the local Social Democrat Party leader Henning Scherf.

"If I had not taken up this offer I could have been forced into early retirement by Werder Bremen," Lemke said.

"I am faced with a great challenge and I have every intention of converting this penalty," he added.

His nomination comes the day after the SPD and the Christian Democrats had agreed to maintain their coalition government in the local parliament.

Players turn out but where's the crowd?

Russian champions Spartak Moscow, playing in an empty Luzhniki Stadium, hammered bottom club Zhemchuzhina Sochi 4-0 in the premier division.

Spartak were ordered to play behind closed doors after hundreds of their fans clashed with police and caused widespread damage in the away match against Saturn Ramenskoye.

Andrei Tikhonov, Vasily Baranov, Sergei Yuran and Valery Kechinov scored for the Muscovites in front of only a handful of media and security personnel.

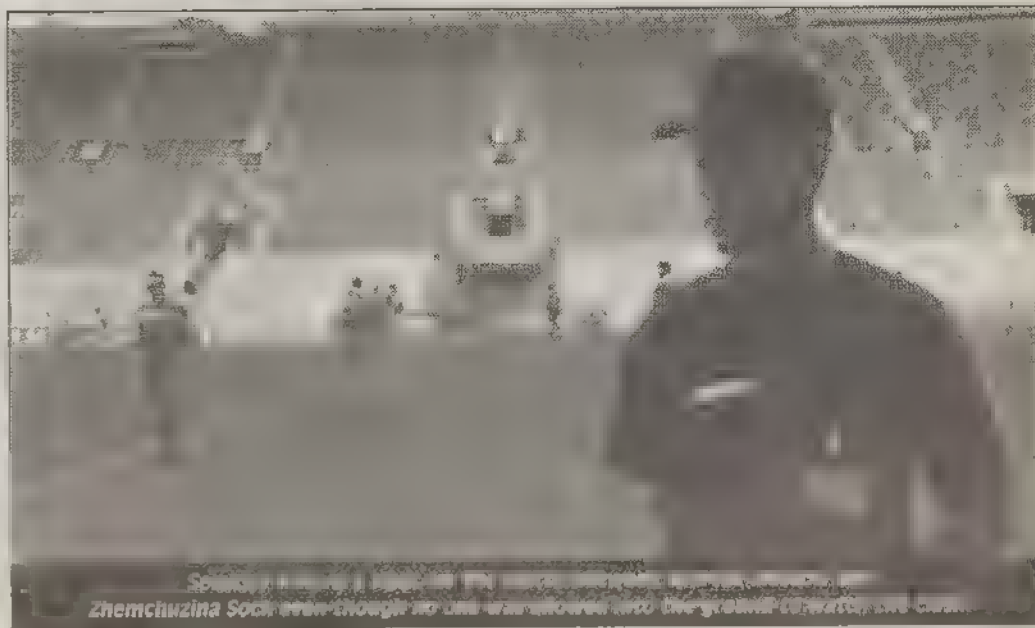
Second-placed Lokomotiv Moscow kept pace with the league leaders with a hard-earned 2-1 win at Zenit St Petersburg.

Alexander Babiy put Zenit ahead in the 19th minute from the penalty spot after Lokomotiv goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatullin had fouled Russian international striker Alexander Panov.

But two goals from Alexei Smertin and Dmitry Bulykin in a five-minute period midway through the second half gave Lokomotiv their ninth successive victory, two short of the club record set in 1995.

They trail Spartak by seven points but have three games in hand.

Last year's runners-up CSKA Moscow stayed a distant third after a 1-0 home win over premier division newcomers Saturn.



Zhemchuzhina Sochi even though the stadium was empty.

In Yaroslavl, struggling Shinnik celebrated Benyaminas Zelkyavichus's coaching debut by beating Dynamo Moscow 3-1.

Dynamo's defeat was their fourth in six games.

Vyacheslav Koloskov has celebrated 20 years as Russian soccer chief during the week.

But the Russian Football Union president has set his sights even higher.

Koloskov, a former FIFA vice-president, said, Joao Havelange ruled FIFA for 24 years, from 1974 to 1998. "If I stay healthy, I have a chance to top that."

Koloskov, 57, was re-elected RFU chief for a further five-year spell last December after a bitter power struggle with his main critic Nikolai Tolstykh.



Marcelo Gallardo (left) with Moanco Club President Jean-Louis Campora.

Monaco's new playmaker, Marcelo Gallardo, said that he could quickly adapt to the small crowds in the principality's Louis II stadium after regularly playing in front of more than 50,000 at Argentina's River Plate.

"I come from a game and a country where the stadiums get filled and there's a big atmosphere," said Gallardo, who has completed his \$9.6 million transfer from the Argentine club.

Monaco, French champions in 1995, average gates of little more than 5,000 at their 15,000-capacity ground overlooking the Mediterranean.

"It will be strange at first with less people and ambiance, but I was aware of that, and I think that after the initial surprise, there won't be any problem," the Argentine World Cup midfielder told a news conference.

Gallardo, who joined Monaco on a five-year contract, won four Argentine league titles and the South American Libertadores Cup with River Plate.

"I aim to prove on the pitch that I can adapt and play even in tepid atmospheres," the 23-year-old player said.

"I signed for five years because I came here with the intention of winning something with this club."

Gallardo will link up in attack with France World Cup striker David Trezeguet, who grew up in Argentina and joined Monaco from River

Gallardo looking to impress in France.

Plate's area rivals, Platense on the western fringes of Buenos Aires in 1995.

"I saw (Trezeguet) play during the World Cup, and I liked him, he's a goal scorer," Gallardo said.

"On top of that, it's important for me to have someone on the team who speaks my language so I can adapt more quickly."

"The best thing for both of us would be to understand each other quickly on the pitch too."

Gallardo said that despite interest from Italian clubs, he had chosen Monaco "because it's an important club in the French championship and in the country of the world champions."

Club president Jean-Louis Campora said, "Gallardo is the great player we sought for our team, to become even more competitive."

Monaco, European Cup semifinalists 14 months ago, have qualified for next season's UEFA Cup after finishing fourth in the French league.

Metz, who finished 10th in the French first division last season, will play in the Intertoto Cup, the French Football Federation (FFF) said.

The FFF said in a statement that Metz were filling the place left vacant by Atletico Madrid who have qualified directly for the UEFA Cup by reaching the Spanish Cup final.

Paris St Germain, ninth in the French league, declined an invitation to take part.

Metz will be one of three French teams in the competition. The others are Rennes and Montpellier.

EUROPE

GIL THE MOBSTER OF ATLETICO MADRID

Spain's top anti-corruption prosecutor has accused Jesus Gil, the already indicted mayor of Marbella and Atletico Madrid president, of dealing with Italian mobsters and Colombian drug lords.

The allegations, which were immediately denied by Gil – a swaggering businessman-politician who Spaniards love to hate – are included in a report by state prosecutor Carlos Jimenez Villarejo that levels conflict of interest charges against a senior judge in Marbella, a glitzy southern coastal resort.

In the 26-page document sent to Spain's judicial oversight group, the General Judicial Council, Jimenez Villarejo outlines what he says are close business ties among relatives of Marbella judge Pilar Ramirez, Sicilian organized crime figures who launder money in southern Spain, and real estate and other firms in which Gil has a stake, the leading daily El Pais said.

According to El Pais, the report also said Gil and Ramirez's relatives had dealings with a businessman allegedly linked to cocaine trafficking rings such as the Medellin cartel.

Villarejo also alleges that Ramirez has engaged in a conflict of interest by hearing cases involving Gil, given that the Marbella mayor has business ties with her father and brother. The report asks that the judge be transferred to another town.

Villarejo said he does not rule out seeking formal charges against Gil.

The judiciary council confirmed it had received the report but refused to release details.

In response, Gil told the state news agency Efe he planned to sue Jimenez Villarejo for libel.

"He has seen a lot of Godfather movies and takes them literally," Gil said. "Villarejo is the biggest scoundrel in this world. He's no one to call me a Mafioso. He's the Mafioso, he and his whole family."

Gil is already preparing to stand trial with others for allegedly funneling public money from the Marbella government to Atletico Madrid, which he owns.

Jimenez Villarejo's office has requested a sentence of 34 years for Gil in that case.

Gil initially was jailed in the case but was released on bail in January. He reportedly had about 80 other court actions against him, many to do with construction projects.

His only previous jail time was in 1969. Convicted of negligence after a roof of a restaurant complex he built outside Madrid collapsed on top of 300 diners killing 58 people, he spent 18 months in prison before receiving a pardon from General Francisco Franco.

GAMARRA GOING TO MADRID

Paraguayan international defender Carlos Gamarra has signed for Atletico Madrid from Brazilian club Corinthians, the Spanish club has confirmed.

Gamarra, 28, signed a four-year contract after passing a medical examination in Madrid.

Atletico did not say what the deal was worth but Spanish media reports have said that Corinthians will be paid 1,000 million pesetas (\$6.25 million).

Gamarra played all his four games at last year's World Cup finals without committing a foul and was voted a member of FIFA's All-Star squad there.

He was also voted the best player of last season's Brazilian championship.



best in the World Cup

SAMMER THE HAMMER STILL WANTS TO PLAY

Germany's Euro 1996 hero Matthias Sammer is still hoping to get back to the top in football after a 20-month knee injury nightmare.

Sammer, originally from the former East Germany, hit top form in his commanding sweeper's role from the quarter-finals onwards and played a high-profile performance in their golden goal victory over the Czech Republic in the Wembley final.

"I always have this hope that I will be back. I'm not giving up," Sammer said in a bi-weekly football magazine, Kicker.



Germany's Matthias Sammer hopes to be back very soon.

Without Sammer, Germany struggled at last year's World Cup as they were defeated by Croatia 3-0 in the quarter-finals when the Germans were expected to do much better.

Schalke 04's Turkish striker Hami Mandirali is set to return to Trabzonspor, the club where he played in his formative years, for a still-to-be-negotiated fee likely to be about \$2.5-million.

The 30-year-old, whose contract with German Bundesliga side Schalke runs until June 2001, is expected to officially move once the fee has been settled.

Ex-Lithuania coach Benyaminas Zelkyavichus will take over struggling Russian premier division club Shinnik Yaroslavl, a club official said.

Zelkyavichus, who last year assisted Viktor Prokopenko at Rotor Volgograd, became Shinnik's third coach this season.

The Lithuanian replaced interim coach Alexander Pobegalov, who succeeded Alexander Averyanov, who himself quit just three weeks into the season.

Shinnik celebrated the arrival of Zelkyavichus, who joined them the previous day, by beating Dynamo Moscow 3-1 for their second win in 12 league matches.

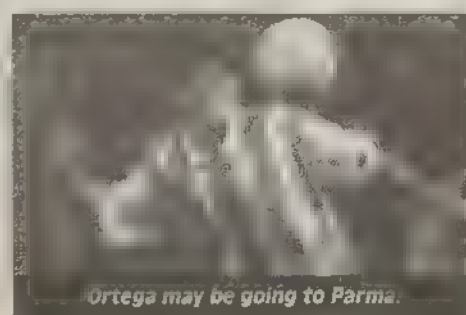
Former Olympic team coach Yevgeny Kucherevsky has quit struggling Russian premier league Uralan Elista after only a week in the job, the club president said.

"It was a complete surprise for me that he left after just one week but we'll manage without him. I have already spoken to another guy and if that doesn't work we can do it ourselves," Uralan president Nikolai Shovgurov said.

Kucherevsky, 57, has now quit two clubs in just three weeks, having left first division Arsenal Tula earlier this month.

"I just need a break from all of that," said the Ukrainian, who led Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk to the Soviet league title in 1988 and coached the Russian Olympic team in 1993/94.

Italian Serie A powerhouse Parma denied reports that it had signed Argentine midfielder Ariel Ortega



Ortega may be going to Parma.

in a \$20 million transfer.

"We would like to get Ortega. But no deal for his transfer has been finalized," Parma's general director Michele Uva said, commenting on Argentine reports that described Ortega's transfer is all but completed.

Ortega is expected to transfer for the second time in as many years after his current Italian team, Sampdoria, was relegated to the second division.

Ortega moved to Sampdoria last year after a two-year stay with Valencia in the Spanish Primera Division. The 25-year-old Ortega began his professional career with Argentina's Boca Juniors.

Parma already has executed the second most expensive transfer in Italian soccer history when it recently acquired Brazilian striker Amoroso from Udinese for \$33.3 million.

Victor Bonilla, who scored 38 goals this season for league champions Deportivo Cali, has agreed in principle to a transfer to Real Sociedad, the Spanish club announced in San Sebastian, Spain.

Real Sociedad officials have traveled to Paraguay, to negotiate the final details of a three-year contract with an option for a fourth season, a team spokesman said.

Real Sociedad, based in this Basque city in northern Spain, finished 10th this season in the 20-team Spanish first division.

IN BRIEF

Marketing incentives might overcome obstacles blocking a move by World Cup midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata from Italy's Perugia to French club Monaco.

Perugia offered Nakata to Monaco two weeks ago but the French first division club already has its three permitted non European Union players. They include Argentina's Marcelo Gallardo, who plays in a similar position.

However, if Nakata were to join Monaco he would attract Japanese sponsors to the principality and the possibility of the club's games being televised in Japan.

Last season some 50,000 Perugia shirts with Nakata's name on the back were sold in Japan.

As with Perugia, tour operators could organize visits for thousands of Japanese tourists to Monaco, the Stade Louis II and La Turbie training camp high above the Cote d'Azur to see Japan's biggest soccer idol.

"We must study the dossier from the economic aspect," Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora said on Thursday.

"That's why we must work on it even if this opportunity comes a bit late."

English Premiership side Everton's Ivory Coast international striker Ibrahima Bakayoko has signed a five-year contract with French first division side Marseille, coach Roland Courbis told AFP Tuesday.

Courbis said the deal was worth 4 million pounds and admitted it "had been an effort on the financial front".

Bakayoko, 22, arrived in France from his native country in 1995 and played for another top flight side Montpellier.

He joined Everton in the season just finished but failed to establish a regular first team place.

Real Madrid's Juan Onieva, a vice-president closely linked to club boss Lorenzo Sanz, dismissed calls for his resignation on Tuesday for alleged financial improprieties.

Eight of Real Madrid's 13 directors had earlier accused Onieva, vice-president in charge of financial affairs, of using ticket revenues for his own purposes and fraudulently amending the club accounts.

"We are disgusted with the actions of Senor Onieva and demand his dismissal," declared another vice president, Juan Manuel Herrero. "If it does not happen immediately, we will be asking the president for elections."

Onieva denied all the allegations against him at a news conference, adding that only Sanz was in a position to sack him. Sanz said he would not be calling elections.

A lawyer and food company head, Onieva was brought in initially as club treasurer by Sanz after financial scandals ended the reign of previous president Ramon Mendoza. Sanz enjoys an elevated status as the man who presided over Real's seventh European Cup win last year and, while unpopular in some quarters, has successfully brought Real back from the brink of the bankruptcy.

He has restructured many of the debts, negotiated new sponsorship deals, increased merchandising and launched the club's own cable TV station.

Real plays in the Champions League next season as Spanish league runner up.

Louis van Gaal's assistant at Barcelona, Gerard Lvan der Lem, is to return to the Netherlands to coach AZ Alkmaar, Dutch news agency ANP said.

Van der Lem, 47, will succeed Wim van Hanegem who resigned in dramatic fashion earlier this month complaining that the AZ board had been trading players behind his back.

Van der Lem's departure will cut Barcelona's Dutch contingent to 11. He had worked eight and a half years as Van Gaal's right hand man at Ajax and Barcelona and had a contract with the Spanish club until mid-2000.

UK

Another foreigner moves to Chelsea

French World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps signed with Chelsea from Juventus, signing a three-year deal worth three million pounds (\$4.77 million).

The midfielder completed negotiations with the Premier League club's Chief Executive, Colin Hutchinson who is on vacation in Cyprus.

Deschamps is a former teammate of Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli. The pair helped Juventus lift the European Cup in 1996.

He won the French championship twice and the European Cup at Marseille before joining Juventus in 1994.

He helped Juve complete the Italian league and cup double the following year.

Deschamps also played a major role in helping Juve win the Italian title in 1997 and 1998 and took them to the Champions League final last year where they were beaten by Real Madrid.

Hutchinson said: "I put a hell of a lot of

work in two years ago with this and tried unsuccessfully to sign him.

"This time he decided to move from Juventus having won everything in the book in Italy, Europe and internationally with France.

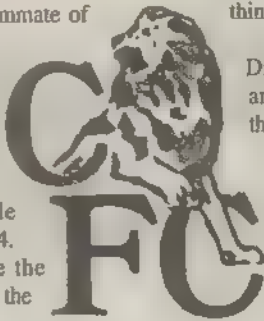
"He has still got a great appetite for the game, he's a winner and wanted to come to England and try a new culture and win things with Chelsea.

"There were a lot of rumors that Didier wanted to return to France and it's still in his mind to return there later in his career."

Hutchinson said Vialli was still trying to strengthen his squad after Chelsea qualified for the Champions League by finishing third last season.

Deschamps's best friend, fellow French World Cup winner Marcel Desailly, joined Chelsea last season and recently pledged his future to the London club.

Desailly has been a revelation in London and his partnership with Deschamps will be one of the best defences in the league.



EVERTON SAY NO WAY TO SALE

English Premiership side Everton have confirmed that they will not sell French midfielder Olivier Dacourt to rivals Liverpool.

Following rumors that Dacourt is set to cross Stanley Park to team up with compatriot and Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier, Everton made it clear such a deal would not be possible.

Secretary Michael Dunford said, "Everton wouldn't consider selling him to Liverpool, and we would meet the same reaction if we went after their star players."

But Dunford added, "They haven't picked the phone up and I wouldn't expect them to."

Everton expect that Dacourt will be on his way from Goodison Park before the start of the new season, with Arsenal believed to be keen on the 6 million pounds star.

Everton has already turned down a bid from Aston Villa for the 24 year-old.

Dunford added, "We have had no approach from Liverpool for Dacourt, and nor would any be welcomed."

"Olivier is a well respected, highly talented player and most Premier League clubs would love to have him. Gerard Houllier has been linked with him, but people are putting two and two together and making five."



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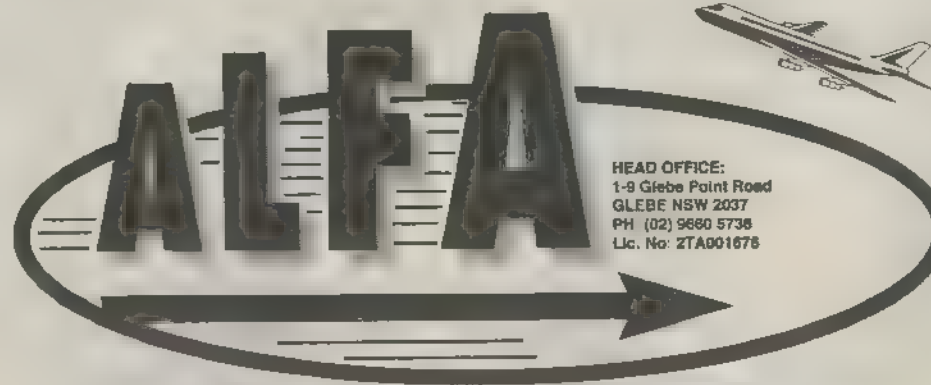
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Hamann to meet with Gullit

Newcastle boss Ruud Gullit will meet with German International Dietmar Hamann for talks to decide whether the unsettled Germany can go to Arsenal.

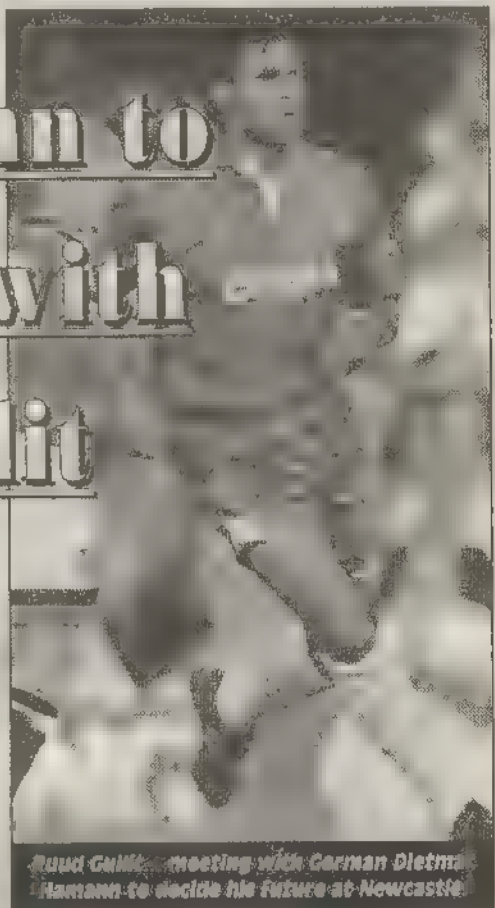
Hamann, on a summer break back home, is telling everyone he is not happy at Newcastle and that both he and pregnant wife Tina would like him to move to Highbury.

Newcastle turned down Arsenal's £7m bid, insisting they want to keep the talented 25-year-old midfielder, who was signed 12 months ago from Bayern Munich.

Hamann said last night, "I stand by everything I have said. I know Arsenal want me and I want to leave."

Matters have come to a head with the revelation that Hamann was involved in a heated row with Gullit during last month's FA Cup Final, which Newcastle lost 2-0 to Manchester United.

The half-time Wembley clash came when Gullit reacted angrily to the German's insistence that he could not play on after picking up an injury.



Ruud Gullit meeting with German Dietmar Hamann to decide his future at Newcastle.

Hamann feels that the incident has undermined his relationship with Gullit. He also believes that London would provide a better family base.

"Tina doesn't feel comfortable in the north and would prefer to live in London," he said. Another option for him could be Italy with Lazio showing interest.

Gullit is due to resume negotiations over his own contract, with Newcastle eager for him to sign a three-year deal.

They are looking for commitment from the

Dutchman after finding substantial cash for him to spend on Paris Saint-Germain's Alain Goma and Real Mallorca's Elena Marcelino.



Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

Showdown in Paris

Arsenal proved the mountain could go to Mohammed when they invited Nicolas Anelka to a summit meeting in Paris which will decide his future.

With Lazio threatening to withdraw their £21m offer for the 20-year-old France striker, Highbury vice-chairman David Dein and manager Arsene Wenger have had enough of Anelka's tactics of using his brothers and other intermediaries to expand upon his desire to quit the club.

They have decided to force the issue by meeting Anelka on his home territory for the first time since he announced his desire to join Real Madrid.

The Highbury hierarchy are determined to stick to the moral high ground they have occupied over Real's illegal approach for Anelka, even though the player has continued to maintain he wants to move to Spain.

Wenger, angered and frustrated by Anelka's attitude, wants to know the truth direct from the player, not to hear his views after they have been filtered by his brothers.



But even if Anelka confirms to Wenger and Dein that he wants to leave Highbury, he will be told that Arsenal will consider selling him only to Lazio.

Wenger has now turned his fire on Real, who contacted Arsenal only after they had persuaded Anelka to sign a personal contract last month, describing himself as 'shocked' by their tactics.

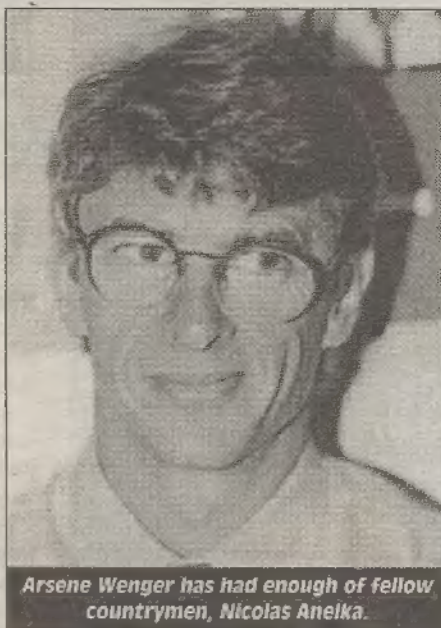
He added, "They are a big club run by little men. What they are doing is out of order."

Although Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti had been on the verge of pulling out of negotiations after refusing to meet Real's demands for a £5m payment to 'buy out' their option on Anelka, Arsenal believe the deal can be resurrected.

That view seemed to be confirmed by Cragnotti who, when informed of the Highbury ultimatum, said, "If that is going to happen, we will wait."

Arsenal's position with Lazio has been weakened by more than a week of discussions with Cragnotti and his representatives, although Anelka's agent Marc Roger's inflammatory comments yesterday are unlikely to cause too many concerns.

Roger, accused by Arsenal of being the intermedi-



Arsene Wenger has had enough of fellow countrymen, Nicolas Anelka.

ary in the Real deal, warned that Anelka was willing to "pursue matters right through to the end".

But he then held out the ridiculous concept of the player taking Arsenal to the FIFA court for demanding he sticks to the four-year contract he signed just six months ago.

Anelka will be a great loss to Arsenal who failed to win the league championship by only one point. Anelka was showing the promise that he would become a great at the club but internal arguing with teammates and management proved to be the Frenchmen's downfall.

While Anelka now appears to be closer to leaving Highbury, his replacement is ever closer to arriving at the London giants.

Sources in Italy reported that Cagliari had accepted Arsenal's £10m bid for 28-year-old striker Roberto Muzzi, with only the fine details to be agreed to.

IN BRIEF

Mallorca's Marcelino Elena has signed a four-year contract with Newcastle worth \$9.32 million.

"It's a little crazy economically. I'm just glad I'm not paying it. But I suppose it is a reflection of how much I am worth on the field," said the Spanish international.

Central defender Marcelino was not too worried about the culture shock of moving to northeast England.

"After all, I come from Gijon in the Asturias (north-west Spain). Mallorca's almost as far from there as Newcastle," he joked.

Mallorca reached the European Cup Winners' Cup final last season and finished third in the Spanish championship for the first time.

He joined the club in 1995 when they were in the second division and made his international debut last year.

English Premiership side Coventry City signed Inter Milan duo Raffaele Nuzzo and Antonino Caruso and may follow that up by signing Inter's Mauro Milanese.

Goalkeeper Nuzzo, 26, and highly-rated 18-year-old midfielder Caruso have moved to Highfield Road on 12-month loan deals, while Milanese could follow the pair to England.

The 27-year-old, who can play at left-back or in midfield, is valued at around 1.5 million pounds by the Italians and Coventry boss Gordon Strachan is interested in signing him.

Sky Blues chairman Bryan Richardson revealed, "We have spoken to Milan and Juventus and we're looking at all sorts of things."

No more foreigners please

As Chelsea began preparing a dressing-room peg for World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps, the fanfare surrounding his arrival at Stamford Bridge will ring hollow to the 500 homegrown players facing the most uncertain of futures.

Deschamps' pedigree with both Juventus and France means he represents the sort of player over whose transfer nobody can justifiably quibble.

At 30 he might no longer be in the first flush of youth but he has been forged in the heat of Serie A and is ready to give the Premiership two more years of almost peak performance before going home to France for a final pay-day.



Didier Deschamps has joined the list of foreigners in England but many are calling for a halt this trend.

Deschamps joins fellow Frenchmen Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf, Spaniard Albert Ferrer, Dutchman Ed De Goey and, of course, Italy's Gianfranco Zola, players who have all made huge impacts both on the Premiership and with the faithfully Chelsea fans.

By contrast, the other new face in the Chelsea dressing-room this summer does exemplify the dilemma facing the English game.

Gianluca Vialli will doubtless hope that former Ajax defender Mario Melchiot will prove himself as much a success as the other Bosman free signing in his squad, Gustavo Poyet, who was virtually unheard of when he arrived from Real Zaragoza but is now a pivotal part of the Chelsea planning.

Yet, for every Poyet, Bergkamp, Zola or Schmeichel who has thrived, there are dozens who have barely stayed long enough for their signing-on cheque to clear.

Last summer the likes of Jean-Guy Wallemme and Paolo Tramezzani were attempting to say 'au revoir' and 'arrivederci' almost before their names had been steam-pressed on to the first replica shirts.

This time round, Pierre van Hooijdonk, Benito Carbone, Dietmar Hamann and Jean-Michel Ferri appear to be making a mockery of the concept of loyalty that supporters everywhere hold so dear.

Yet, the men they have displaced and shunted down the football pyramid are peering into the abyss.

British players, looking anxiously across the Channel, fear they are being driven out by the foreign influx.

Their concerns were addressed recently by Ipswich chairman David Sheepshanks, would-be chairman of the Football Association, who urged for

some degree of limitation on the number of players flooding into this country.

The Sheepshanks baton was taken up by Brendan Batson, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who fears for the long-term unless something is done.

A decade ago, players regularly came through from the lower divisions to the top flight. Now the breeding ground of talent has been drained.

The stream that brought the likes of Kevin Keegan, Ray Clemence, Steve Coppell and Ian Rush bubbling to the surface has been reduced to a trickle, with Kevin Phillips an exception.

"Liverpool looked for little diamonds like Keegan and Rush in the lower divisions and they became world stars. But now it's non-existent," warned Batson.

"The Chelsea supporters will not say that their transfer system is destroying our game because they've been successful and the manager buys players he thinks will bring success to Chelsea.

But there's no doubt opportunities for young domestic players become diminished every time another overseas player is signed."

As Batson is well aware, the British game is incapable of resisting the changes that followed the European Court's ruling on the Jean-Marc Bosman case.

Unless UEFA can persuade the European Union to make an exception for football, the game will remain subject to the freedom of movement and work regulations enshrined in the Treaty of Rome.

There is no way, legally, that the Premiership can impose a three-foreigner ruling, at least as far as EU citizens are concerned. In theory, as Bosman himself pointed out, it can work both ways.

The Belgian explained, "I took the action for the benefit of all players, not just the ones at the top of the game."

"There are more opportunities for every player throughout Europe than there were in the past and there's nothing to stop English players going abroad if they want to."

Nothing, that is, except the insularity of most British players. Only those who learnt a new language, like Keegan, David Platt, Ray Wilkins and Liam Brady, have made a success of their stints in some of the toughest leagues abroad.



Chris Waddle is worried over the number of foreigners in the Premier League.

No comment about a spell overseas has ever spoken louder than Rush's after his return from Juventus.

Asked how he had found Italy, the striker responded, "It was like a foreign country."

While Chris Waddle's apocalyptic vision of a Briton-free Premiership seems overly dramatic, the prospect of up to 500 players left on the dole will still bleed the PFA and cause furrowed brows at Lancaster Gate. What future then for the national team?

From outside the game, there are political moves advocating a redistribution of wealth to invigorate the grassroots.

A report yesterday from a left-wing think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research, suggested that Premier League clubs should pay a 'windfall tax' — 10 per cent of their future TV profits — to be ploughed into projects by the Football Trust.

That was met with predictable scorn by Premier League spokesman Mike Lee, who insisted that their clubs are already giving at least £50m to non-Premiership football over four years from 1997-98.

He added, "Threats of a windfall tax will do nothing to aid that process and could undermine the commercial well-being of our top clubs, who have to compete in a truly international market place."

But somehow solutions, even if only a manner of staunching the flow of imports, must be found.

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VIDUKA TO BE OFFERED TO WEST HAM IN EXCHANGE FOR BERKOVIC

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp has told Celtic that they must offer Australian striker Mark Viduka as part of a £5m deal before he will allow Eyal Berkovic to join them.

Redknapp sees the 23-year-old forward as a key player in his club's attempts to gain a European place next season.

While he maintains that he doesn't want Berkovic to leave Upton Park, he believes that the Israeli international midfielder is his key bargaining pawn.

The two clubs have met in London to discuss the move and Celtic are now contacting Viduka, currently on holiday in Australia, to find out whether the player who scored eight goals in 11 starts for them last season is willing to move to London.

Celtic's new director of football Kenny Dalglish has set the end of this week as the deadline on negotiations. In case they fail to prise Berkovic away from West Ham, they have already lined up Slovakian midfielder Jozef Majoros, who will cost £800,000 from Slovan Bratislava.

West Ham's £5m sale of Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe to Liverpool is expected to go through within the next week.

Liverpool's Rob Jones will end his Liverpool torment by completing a Bosman-style free transfer to Upton Park within the next week.

Hammers boss Harry Redknapp has been on the trail of the injury-hit Liverpool right back for months and has confided to friends that a deal has finally been agreed.

He is so convinced that Jones will become a West Ham player when his Anfield contract runs out on Wednesday, that he has ditched his interest in Gary Charles, currently valued at £1.5m by Benfica.

Leeds United warned Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid: "Hands off Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink!"

United chairman Peter Ridsdale is ready to end the uncertainty surrounding the future of the club's most potent strike weapon by offering him a 4.8million pound contract to stay at Elland Road.

The bitter Madrid rivals are ready to slug it out in a 10million pound battle for the United striker, with Atletico using Brazilian superstar Juninho as part of the package.

Juninho said last season that he wanted to return to England and join Leeds after his move from Middlesbrough turned sour.

New Real boss, John Toshack is fast running out of patience trying to prise Nicolas Anelka out of Arsenal and has also turned his attention to United's Dutch international.

He has the added incentive of Champions League football to offer the 27-year-old striker.

But Ridsdale has warned Toshack and his Madrid rivals that they are wasting their time. "David O'Leary and I have sat down and talked the whole thing through and we have agreed that Jimmy is not for sale," said Ridsdale.

Hasselbaink will be offered a pounds 25,000-a-week deal to make him the highest paid player at the club.



Mark Viduka... may he be heading for Upton Park next season?

Crisis-ridden English First Division side Nottingham Forest received another blow when Irving Scholar quit the club's board after growing impatient with the delay in appointing a new manager.

THE TAKEOVER IS COMPLETE

Milan Mandaric, a multi-millionaire from Serbia, has completed the takeover of stricken English first division club Portsmouth.

Mandaric, a California-based computer tycoon, took control after a five-million-pound deal was approved by creditors and shareholders of the south coast club.

He immediately pledged to hand coach Alan Ball a 10-million-pound transfer budget for next season's campaign.

Mandaric said, "I'm very pleased with the outcome."

Scholar, a former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur before selling out to Alan Sugar and Terry Venables, was also disillusioned by the lack of board consultation by chairman Eric Barnes.

"We have had no board meeting for more than four weeks," Scholar said.

"Eric Barnes has not spoken to me for three weeks. How on earth can you run a company like that?"

"I sent a memo a week ago seeking clarification on the position of the manager. I have not had the courtesy of a reply. I decided enough was enough."

Scholar was also angry that he had not been consulted over the possibility that former England coach and Spurs playmaker, Glenn Hoddle, would be taking over at the club from the recently retired Ron Atkinson, who failed to save them from relegation from the Premiership.

"No one has asked me about Glenn Hoddle, which I find a bit strange given that I have known him well for nearly 20 years," he said.

Scholar, who along with partner Nigel Wray made promises of huge investment in players which the fans felt had not been delivered on and led to Wray resigning in the middle of last season, also bemoaned the fact that Forest are still managerless less than a week before their players are due to report back for pre-season training.

"Once last season finished, a new manager should have been in place within a fortnight," he said. "In this division, planning and organization are absolutely vital."

"Forest is suffering from a self-inflicted paralysis, and I did not want to be associated with it any more," he added.

TAYLOR... WE ARE NOT CHASING STOICHKOV.

Watford manager Graham Taylor downplayed mounting speculation that he is trying to buy veteran Bulgaria striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Taylor said he would not break the club's strict wage structure to lure a major foreign name to the Premiership newcomers.

Stoichkov, nicknamed Raging Bull, was joint top scorer at USA '94 where Bulgaria reached the semi-finals. The same year he won the European footballer of the year award.

Former England manager Taylor said on his return from holiday, "Whilst I've been in the south of France I've been reading about all of the players I've been talking to and offering 10,000 and 12,000 pounds a week to (\$16,000-18,000).

"I've been sitting by a swimming pool and for a fortnight I haven't spoken about football to anyone."

"I think Stoichkov is a great player and a personality, but it would go against my philosophy."

"If people think I'm in line to be paying people 12,000 pounds, and in this particular player's case, I think you'd be talking about three times as much as that, forget it," he added.

Northern Ireland international midfielder Neil Lennon has been given a lucrative four-year contract by his English Premiership club side Leicester City.

It was widely expected Lennon, with a year left on his present agreement, would re-sign after manager Martin O'Neill ended the uncertainty over his own future earlier this month by signing a three-year contract with the club.

That was enough to convince Lennon, tracked by a number of Premiership clubs, to stay.

Lennon has been a huge success for Leicester since he arrived in a 750,000 pounds transfer from Crewe in 1996.

English Premiership outfit Newcastle United have confirmed the signing of Spanish international defender, Elena Marcelino from Real Mallorca.

The five million pound deal was completed after the 27-year-old came through his medical.

Marcelino has signed a four-year contract and will team up with former Paris St Germain player Alain Goma - another recent capture by manager Ryud Gullit - at the centre of the United defence.

Marcelino, who began his senior career with Sporting Gijon before moving to Mallorca, has been capped five times by his country and played in his side's European Cup Winners' Cup final defeat by Lazio in May.

He believes he is ideally suited to life in the Premiership.

"My characteristics are suited to British football, which I have always admired," he said.

"For me, it has been a fantasy to play in the Premiership."

Milen Petkov, a Bulgaria international midfielder, will join English premier league Southampton from CSKA Sofia, a CSKA spokesman said.

Alexander Manov said that Petkov was leaving for London with his manager and that he would have a medical later in the week. He did not disclose the transfer fee.



Hristo Stoichkov.

Goalkeeper Kasey Keller and defender Rob Gullathorne, who has a broken leg, have both refused to sign new contracts with Leicester and face being locked out.

With manager Martin O'Neill away on holiday, the club's finance director Steve Kind said, "We have heard nothing from Keller or Ullathorne."

"We don't know if they are planning to move on, but they are taking a considerable risk, especially Rob."

"Once their agreements expire, we will consider whether we can allow them to use our training facilities."

ENGLAND TRYING TO GET OUT OF A POLISH HELL HOLE

England's knife-edge clash with Poland on September 8 is set to be switched from the hell-hole stadium of Katowice in Poland.

The move will be a major boost to Kevin Keegan's bid to reach Euro 2000.

Katowice, or Chorzow as it is also known, is one of the most inhospitable grounds in Europe.

But there are behind-the-scenes moves to play the tie at the home of Legia Warsaw.

Even that could present fresh problems because the stadium is open only on two sides and has a massively-reduced capacity.

Building work on the Katowice stadium may not be finished in time for the clash.



And political in-fighting at the turbulent Polish FA means one faction is pushing for a change of venue to Warsaw.

Six British players are on the shortlist to be crowned World Player of the Century.

Kevin Keegan, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Stanley Matthews, George Best, Bobby Moore and Denis Law have been chosen by members of the International Federation of Football History and Statistics.

They join 33 other European candidates.

But the winner, to be announced in January, is likely to come from the South American section including Pele and Diego Maradona.

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PREMIER LEAGUE DRAW FOR AUGUST



It's official. The Premier League will begin on August the 7th as Manchester United attempts to hold on to its title.

Manchester United faces a difficult first month in the defense of its English Premier League title.

The fixtures for the 1999/2000 season, generated by computer have pitched Alex Ferguson's treble-winners against likely title contenders Leeds and Arsenal in August.

United, who will be in Hong Kong eight days before their Charity Shield clash against the Gunners, must travel to Highbury on the third weekend of the season.

Although their European Super Cup game against Lazio on August 27 means they will play only five Premiership matches before September - one fewer than most of their rivals - the prospect of two potentially huge matches before his players have got into their stride will not be welcomed by the Old Trafford manager.

United's visit to Goodison will share top billing with the capital derby between West Ham and Spurs on the opening weekend.

David O'Leary's young Leeds side, who finished fourth last season, visit United's Old Trafford ground on August 14.

A week later United travel to Arsenal to face the 1998 champions and last year's runners-up in what will be an early examination of the two sides' championship credentials.

Ferguson's men face Arsenal in the return fixture at Old Trafford on January 22.

United, who also won the European Cup and FA Cup last season, open their campaign against Everton at Goodison Park on August 7 before they play their first home game against Sheffield Wednesday four days later.

United face arch-rivals Liverpool at Anfield on September 11 with the return at Old Trafford on March 4.

The start of the season may be just over six weeks away but already United have been forced to rearrange a game.

Their home match with Newcastle on August 28 clashes with the European Super Cup against Lazio in Monaco the night before.

United, however, have no game on November 30 which is when they are due to play Brazilian side Palmeiras in the Toyota Cup in Tokyo.

United also do not have any league games scheduled during FIFA's World Team Championship in Brazil which is between January 5-14.

But if United do decide to take part and reach the final or the third-place play-off then their game against Leeds on January 15 would have to be moved.

The prospect of Arsenal getting off to a flying start and opening up a gap at the top will further furrow Ferguson's brow.

Arsene Wenger's team kick off on August 7 against Leicester at Highbury - United travel to Everton - and then face Derby and promoted Sunderland and Bradford either side of their game against the champions. They finish August with a trip to Liverpool.

Chelsea, third last season, have also been well treated

by the computer, although their Champions League qualifying games in August mean they will play two games fewer than Arsenal in the first month of the season.

Gianluca Vialli's side are Sunderland's first opponents, at Stamford Bridge, with Leicester, Aston Villa and Wimbledon to follow. Games against Bradford and Spurs will have to be rescheduled in light of their European commitments.

Bradford will not relish the prospect of a visit to Middlesbrough to mark their first top flight campaign since 1922, while Watford and Graham Taylor welcome new Wimbledon manager Egil Olsen to the Premiership at Vicarage Road.

The last time they met as managerial rivals was England's infamous 2-0 World Cup qualifying defeat by Norway in Oslo in 1993.

FIXTURES

Saturday, 7 August
Arsenal vs. Leicester
Chelsea vs. Sunderland
Coventry vs. Southampton
Everton vs. Manchester United
Leeds vs. Derby
Middlesbrough vs. Bradford
Newcastle vs. Aston Villa
Sheffield Wednesday vs. Liverpool
Watford vs. Wimbledon
West Ham vs. Tottenham

Tuesday, 10 August
Bradford vs. Chelsea
Sunderland vs. Watford
Tottenham vs. Newcastle
Wimbledon vs. Middlesbrough

Wednesday, 11 August

Aston Villa vs. Everton
Derby vs. Arsenal
Leicester vs. Coventry
Liverpool vs. West Ham
Manchester United vs. Sheffield Wednesday
Southampton vs. Leeds

Saturday, 14 August

Aston Villa vs. West Ham
Bradford vs. Sheffield Wednesday
Derby vs. Middlesbrough
Leicester vs. Chelsea
Liverpool vs. Watford
Manchester United vs. Leeds
Southampton vs. Newcastle
Sunderland vs. Arsenal
Tottenham vs. Everton
Wimbledon vs. Coventry

Saturday, 21 August

Arsenal vs. Manchester United
Chelsea vs. Aston Villa
Coventry vs. Derby
Everton vs. Southampton
Leeds vs. Sunderland
Middlesbrough vs. Liverpool
Newcastle vs. Wimbledon
Sheffield Wednesday vs. Tottenham
Watford vs. Bradford
West Ham vs. Leicester

Tuesday, 24 August

Arsenal vs. Bradford
Leeds vs. Liverpool
Middlesbrough vs. Leicester
Watford vs. Aston Villa

Wednesday, 25 August

Chelsea vs. Tottenham
Coventry vs. Manchester United
Everton vs. Wimbledon
Newcastle vs. Sunderland
Sheffield Wednesday vs. Derby
West Ham vs. Southampton

Saturday, 28 August

Aston Villa vs. Middlesbrough
Bradford vs. West Ham
Derby vs. Everton
Leicester vs. Watford
Liverpool vs. Arsenal
Manchester United vs. Newcastle
Southampton vs. Sheffield Wednesday
Sunderland vs. Coventry
Tottenham vs. Leeds
Wimbledon vs. Chelsea

IN BRIEF

Derby are poised to sell Paulo Wanchope, in order to buy Fiorentina's Carmine Esposito for £2.5m.

Rams boss Jim Smith will bring 28-year-old Esposito to Pride Park as soon as Wanchope departs, with newly-promoted Italians Torino his most likely destination.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has completed his second signing of the summer when German midfielder Stefan Malz agreed to a £650,000 move from Munich 1860.

He gives Arsenal extra midfield cover with his ability to play on the left, but his arrival seems to spell the end of Stephen Hughes' Highbury career, with Wenger apparently willing to allow the England Under 21 midfielder to leave the club.

Ruud Gullit has interrupted his holiday in an attempt to push through a £15m spending coup.

The Newcastle boss, holidaying in Monaco, flew to Spain to launch a double bid for Barcelona midfielder Luis Enrique and defender Michael Reiziger. At the same time, he renewed his interest in Fiorentina's Portuguese midfielder Manuel Rui Costa.

Newcastle have already spent £10m on defenders Alain Goma from Paris Saint-Germain and Elena Marcelino from Real Mallorca.

Now Gullit is hoping Spanish champions Barcelona will be prepared to part with Dutchman Reiziger and Spain international Luis Enrique after bringing in a number of new signings of their own.

MAN. UTD MOVE INTO AFRICA AS COLE HELPS AIDS ORPHANS IN ZIMBABWE.

Manchester United have added South Africa to their ever-growing portfolio of nations supplying them with young world-class talent.

In the past 12 months, clubs in Denmark, Belgium and Australia have been tapped by the English 'Treble' winners as part of a massive international academy operation. Now Cape Town's FC Fortune are to be United's South African representatives.

FC Fortune will scout for talented young footballers in the region while receiving advice and technical assistance from Manchester United staff.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said, "We believe this link will give us entry to a rich seam of African football talent and help us discover players to follow in the steps of our youth academy's best products."

And Mike Edelson, a non-executive board member at Old Trafford, introduced the latest 'acquisition', who play in the National Soccer League First Division of South Africa,

by saying they were thrilled by the partnership.

"Manchester United are proud to be part of this programme. We have a legendary youth system which was started under Matt Busby and has continued through the years to its present position," he said.

"We hope to develop future star players, but more importantly to give youngsters an opportunity that they previously never had."

FC Fortune, named after Quinton Fortune the South African international and Atletico Madrid midfielder who learned his trade as an apprentice in the Terry Venables' era at White Hart Lane after being spotted at school in north London.

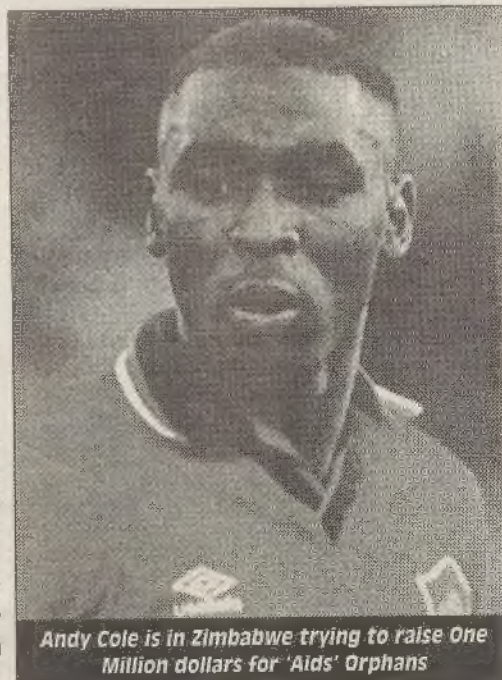
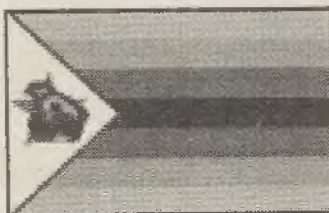
Fortune said, "I am glad that I can give a little bit back to the people who took care of me when I was a youngster."

Meanwhile in nearby Zimbabwe you will find Andy Cole as he aims to raise more than \$1 million to assist 'Aids' orphans in the region.

The United striker told Sky Sports News: "It's amazing how well known United are — it matters not where you

go, we are recognisable. It surprises me to find this sort of interest in Zimbabwe."

"I have to say it takes my breath away to see the kids out here — and if I can help in any way I'm happy."



Andy Cole is in Zimbabwe trying to raise One Million dollars for 'Aids' Orphans



MILE STERJOVSKI
YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR